

RECEIVED 28 DEC 1867.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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No. 667.—VOL. XI.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1867.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED 4D.



DESMOND, ALLEN, AND ANN JUSTICE, PERPETRATORS OF THE CLERKENWELL OUTRAGE, BEFORE BOW-STREET POLICE COURT.



ARRIVAL OF THE PRISONERS UNDER ESCORT AT THE POLICE COURT.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE 1st of January will not be such an important day this year as it used formerly to be in France—as it, at least, was considered in the year of the Italian war, when a few sharp words addressed by the Emperor to the Austrian Ambassador were at once, and justly, looked upon as a call to arms. For several years afterwards, whenever New-Year's Day came round, the greatest anxiety used to be felt throughout Europe as to what the French Emperor had said, or was going to say, at his annual reception. Mr. Reuter will receive a telegram on the subject this year, no doubt, as heretofore; but no one will much care what opinion or sentiments his Majesty may have pronounced, except, perhaps, on one question—that of Rome and its continued occupation by French troops. This question, like all foreign questions just now, has no direct, immediate interest for us. But we should like to know whether the French are to remain at Rome; we are generally of opinion that they ought not to do so, and we are curious to hear what reasons can be assigned for the alleged necessity of keeping Rome any longer from Italy. While waiting for the oracle, let us say a few words on the attitude and conduct of the revolutionary party in Rome, which has been compared by some of our own countrymen to that of the Fenians in England. Secret societies for letting off bombs in public places, and otherwise worrying society, with a view to the enfeeblement of the State, have notoriously existed, and do at this moment exist, in many parts of Europe, and the typical association of this kind is, undoubtedly, the Roman junta. For this association we have nearly all expressed our admiration, while, however, it (admirable and practicable as its ultimate aims may be) has really adopted the same means for attaining them that we so naturally object to when we find them employed against ourselves by members of the Fenian brotherhood. The Romans of the "Rome for the Romans" party prepared, a few weeks ago, for the entry of Garibaldi into their city by throwing grenades about the streets and blowing up houses with as much recklessness as was shown in the recent exploit of the Fenians of Clerkenwell, and with a far less intelligible object. Indeed, the bombs which were made to explode at Rome, during the days that immediately preceded Garibaldi's recent attack, were not let off with any object except the general one of producing confusion and a feeling of insecurity in the city. As the explosions caused many wounds and some deaths, it is quite possible that this feeling of insecurity may have been produced; but, to do away with it and to restore tranquillity and safety, one would think that the first steps to be taken ought to have been the arrest and punishment of the incendiaries and assassins. The old plan of direct, personal, hand-to-hand assassination was infinitely superior to this vague, needlessly-destructive system of shell-throwing and powder-barrel exploding. If the Fenians of Clerkenwell—we cannot but connect them with the scene of their heroic exploit—had not fired off their barrel and blown up the prison wall at a time when there was no one in the prison yard, they would probably have increased the number of killed and wounded by the exact number of the prisoners exposed to the hail of bricks which would have been showered among them as from a battery of artillery. They would have served Burke and Casey as the benevolent bear in *Æsop's* fables served the countryman, when, to drive away the gnat that was tickling his eye, it hurled a paving-stone at it, crushing the gnat and the countryman's head together. As it is, they have made their scores of victims—sacrificed in the attempt to set Burke and Casey free. It so happened that the great end was not attained; but here at least there was an intelligible purpose, as there also was when Orsini threw his grenades at the Emperor of the French, and, failing to hit him, killed or wounded several of his attendants; and again when the agents of the Polish National Government shelled the Polish Governor, Count Berg, from the window of a house at Warsaw.

In fact, the acts of violence committed by secret revolutionary societies are of two kinds. Sometimes life is destroyed with a special object—with the view, for instance, of getting rid of an enemy or of liberating a friend. At other times the revolutionists destroy for the sake of destruction, which they seem to think a good thing in itself. Thus, in St. Petersburg, shortly before the outbreak of the last Polish insurrection, fires, the work of incendiaries, took place night after night, to the great satisfaction of the generally discontented classes and to the confusion of the Government and all who placed confidence in it. Nothing appeared more unreasonable than these conflagrations of which the true origin was never discovered—never mathematically demonstrated, that is to say. But their effect was to produce that sort of commotion which was considered favourable to the development of revolutionary schemes. It is not at all clear to us that the revolutionists understood their own business, and we should be glad to think them utterly wrong (practically speaking) in the means they adopt. But at St. Petersburg, at Warsaw, at Rome, and now, unfortunately, in London—the chosen city of order and good government—they seem to have great faith in destruction for the sake of destruction and what they suppose to be its immediate general results.

"How can it profit Fenianism," an unsophisticated Englishman may ask, "that houses should be set on fire in Grosvenor-square?" for the attempt to burn a house in Grosvenor-square is an act far more in accordance with the peculiar spirit of the "European revolution" than the destruction of the prison wall at Clerkenwell, the special intention of which was evident enough, and intelligible, however criminal. It may be answered that Fenianism is the latest form in which Irish

discontent has presented itself—mere vague discontent which asks for nothing that can be granted, but demands impossibilities only—and that discontent may show itself in towns in the burning of houses and public buildings, as in the country it shows itself in the burning of ricks. If the houses of the rich were here and there to be set on fire, and the London mob were to show no sympathy with the burned-out householders, but rather the reverse, all the respectability of the metropolis would be troubled by so sad a spectacle. Seriously, law, order, morality would be insulted, and in the same proportion the heart of Fenianism would be gladdened. A slight diversion, moreover, would be caused in its favour. If it could once be made plain to the English Government that there was a bad feeling against it on the part of what European revolutionists call "the disinherited classes" in London it would not be able to give up its whole attention to Ireland. There must be many thousands—indeed, tens of thousands—in London who do not feel acute grief when they hear of the assassination of one of the guardians of private property and public order; who would be glad to hear of the liberation of prisoners, from no matter what gaol, and by no matter what means; and who would think it a good joke if every now and then a few rich men had their furniture and pictures destroyed by fire. Put aside the Irish element, and it is only upon such social refuse as this that Fenianism can make any favourable impression in England. But in a city of three millions there must be a large *lowest* class, caring no more for the world and the world's law than did the apothecary in "Romeo and Juliet"; and for this class it is to be feared that Fenian lawlessness may possess considerable attractions. Fenianism cannot destroy a nation; but it may have a corrupting effect upon that portion of a nation which is already in a diseased state. In France, as recent revelations sufficiently indicate, it is among the educated, intelligent classes that grave discontent is chiefly to be found; but, whatever else it may be, neither in England nor in Ireland can Fenianism be looked upon as an intellectual movement.

THE FENIANS.

THE ORGANISATION IN LONDON.

THE police have succeeded in effecting the arrest of several men believed to be more or less implicated in the plot to blow up the House of Detention. Among the prisoners are John Desmond, brother of Timothy Desmond, previously in custody; Nicholas English, and Patrick (or John) Mullany, and John O'Keefe. They are charged with treason-felony. At the examination of the prisoners before Sir Thomas Henry the following evidence was given as to the Fenian organisation in London:—

James Vaughan, an approver, said—I have been working for Davis and Goodman, Oxford-street. I know Timothy Desmond, a man now in custody, but not here to-day. He is a tailor. I have known him five years. Had known the prisoner, William Desmond, about eighteen years, English four or five years, and O'Keefe about two years.

O'Keefe—Please to look at me. I don't think you do know me. Witness—Perfectly. I don't know where he lives. I believe he is a shoemaker. I have known Mullany about eighteen months.

Mullany—I never spoke to you.

Witness continued—I am a member of the Fenian Brotherhood. I joined in 1855. The oath was administered to me by Timothy Desmond, the other prisoner. The oath was:—"I promise by the divine will of God to do all in my power to obey the laws of the society of F. B. (meaning Fenian Brotherhood), and to free Ireland from the yoke of England." When the oath was administered I kissed the book. Timothy Desmond repeated the words of the oath to me. He used the expression short, "F. B." We were the only persons present when I took the oath. That was at a place called Duck-lane, Edward-street, Soho; not in any house, but in the open air. The witness is that there are never more than two together when the oath is taken. One who is already sworn can swear another. If a man swears in a certain number of men he is raised. I have been in the habit of frequenting Mrs. Cavanagh's, the Lion and French Horn, in Pollen-street, Regent-street. I have met all the prisoners there, on different occasions, and believe them to be members of the Fenian Brotherhood. I was at a Fenian meeting about three months back. Timothy Desmond had spoken to me three days previously. He told me there was going to be a meeting held at Cavanagh's. He said the watch raffle was getting too stale; they were going to try a meeting for the Church, and see if that would do better. He said "Nick" had got the room, and he told me to try and get down early before the strikers came in. I had contributed to several raffles. They were not genuine raffles. The same raffle was held week after week, for the purpose of buying arms. Desmond told me that this meeting was for the same purpose—that of buying arms. He said they were "wanted 4—d bad." I have attended some of the raffles myself. I saw Timothy again on the Saturday. He said a number of the people would be led to believe that it was for the Church, and we should all try to be there as Father O'Connor was going to give a good lecture. I saw English, Mullany, and Keefe at that meeting. We were sitting down together in the same room. The conversation was whispered to Desmond by a party that there is a warrant out against Desmond called on me the next day, and we went to Cavanagh's, where we saw English, Mullany, and Keefe. English was very busy. Father O'Connor and another man were in the parlour. It was then said that the meeting would be held at the Temperance Hall. It would not do to have a meeting like that at a public-house, with Father O'Connor, and they might have visitors they would not care to receive. The meeting was to have taken place at Cavanagh's, where there is a large room. The Temperance Hall is next door to Cavanagh's. There were 150 of us there, or more. The meeting was supposed to be for the purpose of building a church in Ireland. I saw no printed bills or advertisements. I believe they had cards printed, but I did not see them. I never saw Father O'Connor before or since. On the platform were Father O'Connor, the chairman (a man named Martin, I believe), Mullany, and the other person that I have mentioned a warrant was out against. Keefe and English were at the door till all the people came in. Then Keefe came in. English was in the passage, but at different times came into the hall facing the platform. I did not see William Desmond at the meeting. The hall was full. Keefe and English were at the door, to see that no person that they knew to be a constable or detective should come in without their giving us the tip. The chairman tried to open the meeting, but he seemed confused. He said that they all knew we had come there for a charitable object, and that Father O'Connor would address the meeting. Father O'Connor said he was not prepared to give a lecture, but he would speak to them a little on Ireland. They all knew what he came there for—to build a high church in Ireland. He then laughed, and they all clapped, which led me to believe that they all knew what we came for. He said it was a mistake for anybody to suppose that the clergy were against the people—that they were not. I suppose he meant the Catholic clergy. Timothy Desmond said, "How about Maynooth?" Father O'Connor said, "I was not prepared for that; but I will tell you. Although the clergymen take an oath, they take it to be loyal to God and the Church, and then to their country." He proceeded further, and the prisoner Keefe said, "Bravo! you are not like Father Moriarty." At the end of the speech he said, "You think Ireland is almost dead; but believe me she has got a kick left, and that kick will go through the belly of John Bull." This was received with great clapping and cheering. A party on the other—the man I have before alluded to. It was made by passing a plate round the room and to each form. Mullany afterwards took the chair, and a vote of thanks was given to the chairman, after which the meeting separated. I don't know what was collected. I contributed 6d. The money was taken inside Cavanagh's. The following Tuesday I went to a public-house in John-street, Golden-square, and Timothy Desmond with me. I saw all there except William Desmond. Timothy Desmond had told me that the "Boss" would be there that night. I understood the Boss to mean the head centre, who was to come from Manchester. He did not come. We went between half-past seven and eight and waited up there till about ten, when Desmond said it was no use waiting any longer, as he had received a message from the Boss, who could not come on any occasion. He appeared very much disappointed, and said he could not help it; there was something very extraordinary, and he left with Mullany and English. We had been

drinking and singing during the evening. I bought some tickets for a raffle from Desmond. I gave the money to Timothy Desmond. The raffle was one which was stated on the cards to be for the benefit of a widow with six children, left totally destitute. On last Tuesday week, Dec. 10, Timothy Desmond came to my place where I was lodging, in Pugh's-place. He said Mr. English and he had come about the cards and the money that was owing for them. I had previously purchased ten white cards at 6d. each, and two green at 1s. I had got them from Timothy Desmond; but the initials of English were on the back of each. I had had them about three weeks. That money—7s.—was due to him, and also 6s. that I had borrowed of Timothy Desmond at the meeting. I sold some of the cards. They were to aid the wives and families of the Manchester prisoners. They were to admit to a lecture to be given by a person named Clinton Hoyer. I said I would pay on Friday. Desmond asked English if he was satisfied. He said of course he was; but I must know the money was very much wanted. Desmond asked me if I was going over to Stangate with him that night. I said I could not, as I was rather busy. Desmond then asked English whether he would come down, or whether he (Desmond) should come. English said, "No, I will come down; you can't." I saw no tickets for the meeting of Tuesday, 10th. On the Friday Timothy Desmond came to me, between half-past one and half-past two. He came to the door and hailed out, "Aho!" I said, "Holloa, Tim! have you been muddling it?" He said, "No; but I have been having a little drop," adding that his son had gone off to sea that morning. He asked my wife if she had seen his wife. She said, "No." I said, "You don't mean to say your wife he hooked it, Tim?" He said, "Yes she has; and, by the God that made me, she shall never lie beside me again." My wife said, "Don't be foolish." He said, "Good-by," and kissed her, and said he was going to "take a jump." He then whispered to me that the trick should be done between half-past three and four, as Anne Justice had found out the right time for the prisoners to exercise in the yard. He said, "It must be done." I said, "What?" He said, "To blow up the House of Detention. When I am gone, Jimmy, I don't expect you will see me any more, or if you do, it will be a corpse; or if I get off and am arrested, the next place will be the gallows or Millbank. Keefe will do the trick with Bill Desmond, for Massey, Corydon, and Devany, Jem, good-by, and pray for me when I am blasted into eternity." He then squeezed my hand very hard and kissed me. He said Anne Justice had found out the time by going in with Casey's dinner. He said I was not to give any money to his wife, but to give it to English, and, if he was not to come down for it, to give it to no one but his daughter. My wife did not hear what he said to me, as it was all in a whisper, though she was on the board. English came to me on Friday night, and said, "For God's sake, Jimmy, give me as much as you can, as I want all the money I can get to send some off to them." I asked him, "Who?" and he said, "What, have you not heard?" He said, "The House of Detention is blown—bang up!" I asked him did he see Desmond, and he said, "He promised to meet me in about an hour." I asked him if he thought he should see him that night, and he said, "No, I don't expect I shall." I then gave him 2s. I said I could not give him any more, as I was rather slack. He said, "Jimmy, for God's sake give as much as you can for me," and left. I saw him the next morning (Saturday) in Tyler-street. I went into a shop there to buy a newspaper. I saw English in the street outside the shop when I came out with the paper. I said, "Good morning, Nick." He then seemed very much excited, and said aloud, reading from the placard, "Diabolical! We will burn all London yet, and that will be more diabolical." I asked him if he had seen Desmond yet? He said, "No," and left. The same day I came to Bow-street, about half-past twelve. I saw Keefe at the corner of Bow-street and Russell-street. When he saw me he ran over to me and asked if I had seen English. I said, "Yes, about eleven o'clock, and left him in Carnaby-street." He said, "I have found it, I had an appointment with him." He went on to talk about the explosion. Several persons joined in the conversation. I said it was a bad job about the amount of damage that was done as regards life. I said it was horrible to think of it. Keefe said a thing like that could not be done without a sacrifice. William Desmond then came to me, and said, "Holloa, Jimmy, what do you think of that woman?" She has come round to me accusing me of saying that he was a coward." I asked him who? He said, "Ted's wife. You never heard me say it, did you?" By Ted, he meant Timothy. We used generally to call him "Ted." I said it was a bad job. William Desmond said, "It served him—well right; he had no business to be there at all. We sent him back, and told him to go home and have a sleep for an hour." Then William English came in. Desmond then asked me over again if I ever heard him call Ted a coward. English said they had sent Timothy back, and did not want him there. I understood "there" to mean at the explosion. On Sunday I went to Cavanagh's. I saw William Desmond, English, and Mullany there. I was in the front bar. English was drunk. He asked Desmond to go out, and asked if he would go down with him. He said, "Yes." We all went outside—me, William Desmond, and the other man. I asked William Desmond where he was going. He said they were going to the Boss, to take back an answer to a message. He said the Boss was in Hooper-street, Westminster. One of the other men then asked Desmond if he could not persuade English to stop—that it was too late to go over that night. He said, "You had better do that, you have more influence over him than I have." He then went up to him and stopped him in the middle of Conduit-street; and we all persuaded him not to go, as it was too late. He went back to Pollen-street, and we followed. Desmond said, if we went over at that time of night to so quiet a street, where they went to bed so early, we should all be suspected. English then said he should go over the next morning by six; and he then said, "The next thing we had better do is to settle Derby, Stanley, and Hardy; there would not be so much thought by the public of doing the trick for them as over the last affair." We then left English standing in the street, and we went home. I left Desmond at his own door. It was about half-past eleven when we so parted. It was on last Sunday night. I had been at Cavanagh's at about ten o'clock that night. Mullany asked English to have some grog with him, calling him by the name "Nick." He afterwards handed the glass to Desmond, saying, "Here, Hardy, drink." Amongst the persons there was the man whose name I have not mentioned, whom I had seen at Father O'Connor's meeting.

The four men charged on the testimony of Vaughan, the approver, with Fenianism, were brought up on Monday, at Bow-street, and after some cross-examination of the witnesses, two of the prisoners, William Desmond and Nicholas English, were included in the charge of murder preferred against Timothy Desmond, Jeremiah Allen, and Anne Justice, and all five were placed together in the dock. At present they are only connected with the explosion by the evidence of Vaughan, who, however, stood a severe cross-examination without his evidence in chief being weakened. He admitted that he was a deserter from the 68th Regiment, and had been tried by court-martial. The prisoners were remanded for a week.

BURKE AND CASEY.

Burke and Casey underwent another examination at Bow-street last Saturday, before Sir Thomas Henry. Further evidence as to the purchase of arms by Burke for the Fenian rising was given, and of overt acts in Ireland. At the close they were remanded again. The police van, on returning to the gaol with the prisoners, was guarded by a strong body of horse police armed with cutlasses and pistols, and passed through the streets at a very rapid pace.

GOVERNMENT PRECAUTIONS.

The Government seems to be taking great precautions for the protection of the public buildings. The Post Office is now guarded by special constables. The Government offices are also closely watched. Moreover, great precautions have been taken to secure the public buildings from fire. It is stated that the Government has decided upon adding 1000 men to the metropolitan police, and thus to provide for the more efficient watching of London.

OUTRAGES IN THE PROVINCES.

Fenianism appears to be very active just now, notwithstanding the severe check it has experienced, and rumours of mischief are rife in every direction. At Warrington and elsewhere attempts have been made to destroy the gasworks—for what purpose is not distinctly made out, unless to alarm and to plunder in the darkness thus created. At Manchester an Irish sergeant of the 72nd Highlanders has been arrested on a charge of Fenianism; and at Cork, as we learn by telegram, a head centre and a dozen Fenian steamers of less mark have been seized; while it is said that five war-steamer are off the Irish coast looking out for a Fenian privateer.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—Extraordinary efforts have this year been made to celebrate Christmas at the Crystal Palace. Although in former years the building has been decorated in an extremely gay manner, the decorations of the present Christmas may safely be said never to have been surpassed. Flags, streamers, banners, garlands, holly, laurel, shields, and baskets of flowers hang from every girder and rib, and artistically arranged amid groups of statuary, &c. The centre transept has been converted, by judicious decorations, into a room—a large one, truly—but the vastness of the locale is forgotten in the warmth of the decorations and the air of comfort which pervades the building. The great stage is now complete in every respect; and in the present pantomime, "Little Red Riding Hood," which has been written and produced under the superintendence of Mr. Nelson Lee, every advantage has been taken of the scope afforded for the most brilliant effects. The great Handel Orchestra, immediately facing the stage, offers capabilities for seating large numbers of visitors, who can thence witness these effects in ease and comfort. The great Christmas-tree, nearly 100 ft. high, has been erected in the north nave, and is decked gaily with every imaginable ornament. The fancy fair and bazaar—replete with Christmas presents suitable to all—is in full vigour; the entire palace exhibiting an activity and brilliance unusual at this season. Besides the pantomime, the troupe of Beni-Zong Zong Arabs, who performed at the palace in October, have been re-engaged, and appear twice daily in their marvellous feats of strength, activity, and daring. In order to give increased effect to this performance, a desert scene has been specially painted by Messrs. Danon and Sons. Some clever clown and the champion skaters complete the list of miscellaneous entertainers. However, in addition, there is an endless variety of games and sports, both in the palace and outside.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

In the course of the debate in the Legislative Chamber on the Army Reorganisation Bill, M. Rouher, in reply to a demand for explanations made by M. Jules Favre, protested in the most absolute manner against all interpretations tending to show that the bill constituted any preparations for a more or less distant war, and asserted that the measure only provided for the maintenance of the interests and independence of the country. M. Jules Simon opposed the bill, asking for the suppression of a permanent standing army. He advocated a general national armament, as in Switzerland. He said that the project of the Government was the organisation of war. Marshal Niel opposed the system advocated by M. Jules Simon, behind which he could foresee the disastrous Utopian folly of a general call to arms. He refuted the criticisms launched against the French army. It was not an army of Pretorians, but there existed an intimate union between it and the nation. The military spirit which it was desired to destroy was the foundation of the greatness of France. Referring to his efforts to complete the organisation of the army, Marshal Niel said that he believed that he had worked for peace, and he hoped that it would be maintained. Relative to the amount of the proposed contingent, Marshal Niel said that the real object of the bill was to create such a normal contingent that its effective strength should never be less than 750,000 men. The contingent of this year will be 100,000 men. The result of the bill will be to prevent anyone whomsoever attacking France with impunity. The differences of opinion still existing between the Government and the Army Commission were not important.

The uneasiness between France and Italy does not decrease. Extensive warlike preparations are still being made in France. The defeat and resignation of the Italian Ministry have caused a great sensation in Paris. The vote of the Italian Chamber is regarded as a direct answer to the speech of M. Rouher, and apprehensions of a war between the two countries gain ground.

An important political trial has just taken place in Paris. The parties implicated are M. Accolas, a professor at the School of Law, M. Naquet, a lecturer at the School of Medicine, and ten others of inferior position in society. They are charged with belonging to a secret society, with intriguing to disturb the public peace, and with having excited to contempt and hatred of the Government. Three printed proclamations were found on the premises of M. Accolas, of the most violent and revolutionary character, and which fully bear out the terms of the indictment. All the accused have been found guilty, and condemned—Accolas to a year's imprisonment and 500*fr.* fine; Naquet, Verlière, and Chouteau each to fifteen months of the same punishment, 500*fr.* fine, and five years' interdiction to exercise civic rights; Hayot and Godichet each to a year's imprisonment, 500*fr.* fine, and five years' interdiction; Adel, Las, Gorand, Meill, Genouille, and Hermann each to three years' imprisonment and five years' interdiction; and all conjointly to the costs.

ITALY.

The debate in the Chamber of Deputies on the Roman question has ended in the defeat of the Menabrea Ministry by a majority of two. The debate was brought to a close last Saturday, and on Sunday the vote was taken on a resolution which affirmed that Rome was the capital of Italy, but deprecated the attainment of that object by illegal means; further, it approved the conduct of the Ministry. General Menabrea of course accepted the resolution, but the House did not. On a division it was defeated by 201 votes to 199. The Ministry, in consequence, resigned; but the King has commissioned General Menabrea to form a new Cabinet, or rather, we suppose, to reconstruct the old one.

The Chamber of Deputies last Saturday passed a resolution for the suspension of the payment of the Italian portion of the Pontifical debt, General Menabrea consenting to it with certain reservations.

HUNGARY.

The Upper House of the Diet has unanimously adopted the bill regulating the debt of the empire and the customs convention. The House further agreed to the Jews' Emancipation Bill by 64 votes to 4. The election of the delegates will probably take place on Saturday.

The result of the elections to the Croatian Diet shows a majority of two thirds in favour of union with Hungary.

WIRTEMBERG.

In Tuesday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies the Government Reform Bill was presented to the House. According to the bill, the Lower Chamber is to consist of ninety-four members, sixty-four of whom are to be elected by direct election, twenty-four to be selected from the highest ratepayers, and the remaining six members to be representatives of the Church. The Upper Chamber is to consist altogether of fifty members, representing the nobility, the Universities, both the Protestant and the Catholic Churches, and the great towns. Eight country representatives will be nominated by decree.

RUSSIA.

An Imperial ukase has been published ordering that the Imperial manifestoes of Oct. 28, 1866, and the Imperial ukase of May 17, 1867, relative to the amnesty in Poland, shall not extend to those political refugees now in foreign countries who took part in the last revolutionary outbreak.

THE UNITED STATES.

It is reported that President Johnson has sent a message to the Senate assigning the following reasons for the removal of Mr. Stanton:—The lack of proper respect shown by the Secretary, who attempted, in defiance of the President, to retain office, under the provisions of the Tenure of Office Bill, which Mr. Stanton, with the rest of the Cabinet, had previously denounced as unconstitutional. Furthermore, he says that Mr. Stanton was the cause of the New Orleans riots by withholding from the President the information that the Federal Commander at New Orleans asked for special instructions relative to the anticipated riot. President Johnson further states that Mr. Stanton's successor has already saved the country millions of dollars, and that the Cabinet are now entirely harmonious in reference to the Reconstruction policy.

In the Senate Mr. Chandler has made a long speech in favour of the resolution granting belligerent rights to Abyssinia during the war with England, and strongly denounced the course pursued by the British Government during the late rebellion. He declared his belief that, if the resolution were passed, ten to fifteen Abyssinian privateers would be afloat within a hundred days. Mr. Reverdy Johnson strongly opposed the resolution, as calculated to produce a needless quarrel with Great Britain.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Banks announced that the Secretary of State is preparing papers to submit to Congress relative to the trial and imprisonment of naturalised American citizens in Great Britain.

It is reported that a majority of the National Republican Committee is in favour of the nomination of General Grant to the presidency.

St. Thomas is to be formally transferred to the United States on Jan. 1.

The report of the revolution in Durango, Mexico, is contradicted.

SOUTH AMERICA.

There has been some very severe fighting between the Brazilians and Paraguayans. The latter made a bold onslaught on the camp of the allies and carried it by storm; but were, after a desperate conflict, driven out.

JAPAN.

The Russian Consul at Hakodadi announces that, in accordance with the treaties concluded with Japan by England, France, the United States, and the Netherlands, Jeddo and Osaka will be opened for trade with the contracting Powers upon Jan. 29, 1868.

INDIA.

The reports relative to the cyclone continued to represent the damages as extensive and widespread. Ships arriving at Calcutta report severe weather in the Bay of Bengal, and are all more or less damaged. The Blenheim arrived totally dismantled. The China steamer Thunder, due at Saugor on the night of the cyclone, is supposed to have been lost, with a large amount of specie on board.

MR. GLADSTONE IN LANCASHIRE.

LAST WEEK Mr. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., visited South Lancashire, and addressed public assemblies in several places—such as Oldham, Ormskirk, and Southport. In the course of his several speeches, the right hon. gentleman dealt with all the leading questions of the day, as well as some that are likely to occupy attention in the future; and it may therefore be desirable, though now (unavoidably) somewhat late, to place upon record in our columns the views he enunciated, as they are likely to constitute leading features of the Liberal programme in the Parliamentary discussions of next year. At Oldham Mr. Gladstone enlarged on the question of education. He said that

It consisted of two parts, technical or professional and popular education. The first step was to secure that there should be a general system for teaching the young those things which everybody should know, and thus to lay a basis for learning those things which belonged to particular callings. It was necessary, he said, to make attempts to give consistency and unity throughout the country to the means and agencies which have been brought into operation within the last thirty years with great benefit and advantage, but, notwithstanding, in a manner unequal, and, unfortunately, in many cases on the principle of giving the most help to those who are not in the greatest need. He thought that the bill brought into Parliament last year by Mr. Bruce and Mr. Forster, further considered and matured, offered us a fair basis upon which to proceed. There was also a sanguine hope that the religious difficulty might be got over. Schools which were called secular schools ought not to be proscribed. He preferred a school where religion was taught to one where it was not taught, but if there were benevolent individuals who were disposed to give or assist in giving to their own families or the families of others the advantages of not only the positive knowledge of a school, but the moral habits of a well-conducted school, it was not sufficient reason for withholding public aid from the school and placing it under a ban that religious instruction did not form part of the system of that school. The very persons who might wish to found a school simply secular in its character might limit the sphere of that school not only of disrespect to religion, not from undervaluing its inestimable blessings, but because they felt afraid of its becoming a source of discord in the school. He thought it better, therefore, to leave that to the pastors and the parents. For technical education the people should mainly rely on themselves, looking to the Government for auxiliary assistance in the way of advice and guidance. He hoped co-operative stores would do good by bringing ready-money dealings into fashion. As to co-operative mills, he wished them success, because the operative was thus enabled to assume the character of a capitalist. He became a link between the two great classes, and the existence of a class between the capitalist and the operative tended to soften whatever there was of collision in the relations of labour and capital. After expressing a hope that something might be done to restrain the sale of drink on Sunday (but only on condition that it was the wish of the working classes themselves), he referred to the trade union. In principle they were unobjectionable. The only doubt was as to the way in which they should be worked. A strike diminished the fund divisible between the labouring man and the capitalist, yet it might increase the share of that fund which went to the labouring man; and in principle it was perfectly fair as an economical question for the labouring man to get as good a share of it as he could. On the other hand, while a strike was of great injury to trade, it was of enormous advantage to society; of all the stimulants and incentives to amendments in machinery none were equal to strikes, because all rules in restraint of labour and industry made by any union, association, or authority whatever, to restrain and limit the exertions of its members were bad from beginning to end. This was direct war against the working community as a whole. So also with respect to piecework. He could not conceive it possible to make any argument in defence of regulations which prohibited piecework. The best condition of things for the labouring classes was that in which it should be easiest for the able or the diligent man to rise out of it. As to machinery, working men should remember that it was taking the place which slave-labour held in ancient societies, relieving them from much exhausting toil, and therefore lightening their labours and increasing their chances of wealth and long life. He concluded by expressing his confidence in the stability of English industry; it had no reason to fear foreign competition, which would do good by stimulating our countrymen to greater exertions.

At Ormskirk, after thanking the electors for making him their representative under circumstances which were unusual, Mr. Gladstone said:—

It had been his fate at an early period of his Parliamentary life to lose the seat for the borough of Newark, which he had long enjoyed, on account of the share he took in sustaining Sir Robert Peel in the adoption of a great change in the economical policy of the country, a change which, opposed at the time, was now acknowledged on all hands to have been dictated by the truest wisdom. On that occasion he found a refuge opened to him in the University of Oxford, and for eighteen years, and in the course of four or five severe contests, was so happy as to hold his ground through the indulgent confidence of that learned body. But at last came the general election of 1865. At that period his cup of offences was running over; but he believed, so far as he had ever been able to learn or judge, that the final delinquency, beyond all others, and beyond all bearing, was that he had made a declaration in the House of Commons on the subject of Parliamentary Reform, to the effect that, if they were opposed to the extension of the suffrage, it became them to show good cause why their fellow-countrymen should not be admitted to that privilege. That was some four or five years ago, and great was the horror that was produced by that revolutionary declaration. It was impossible to find words to paint the violent and dangerous character of his opinions without going back to the agitated and excited period of the French Revolution, and he was told across the House of Commons by the gentleman who had lately been the hero of Reform that he had revived the doctrines of Tom Paine. Having succeeded in fastening upon him a relationship to that now almost forgotten hero of his day, it was no wonder that he fairly frightened the University of Oxford out of returning him to Parliament, and the University then took in his place what was called a safe man—the Right Hon. Gathorne Hardy, a man that might be depended upon to stand up for the £10 suffrage, which in the year 1832 had itself been in the minds of those gentlemen held to be the badge of revolution, and which in 1865 had come to be the basis of the Constitution and the salvation of the country. Well, he would not pursue the history of Mr. Hardy, nor would he inquire what the University thought now of the manner in which it was led—he was going to say by the nose, but he was not assured that a University had a nose—upon that remarkable occasion. But his loss of that much-prized and valued honour, the representation of the University, at any rate did this—it enabled him to submit his name and character to this constituency as a candidate for the representation of this great and distinguished county, and it enabled them in a manner dictated only by their generous confidence, and certainly by no deserts of his own, to return him to Parliament upon a forty-eight hours' notice.

He proceeded to state that the Liberal party went into office absolutely bound to consider the question of Reform. From a variety of causes it was led to propose a very moderate measure; but, owing to the union of the dissentient Liberals with their opponents, they were unable to carry it.

Mr. Lowe, as leader of the Liberal seceders, had told the story of that combination, in the face of the House of Commons, and without contradiction. He said that the party then in opposition gave him a most solemn assurance that, in the event of the defeat and ejection from power of the then existing Government, they, on their accession to power, would be no parties to the lowering or the degradation of the suffrage. The result was that they retired from office. They did not retire from office because the House of Commons drove them out. At the moment when they retired they knew perfectly well that the majority of the House, including the bulk of those who were opposed to them on Reform, were desirous that they should continue to retain it, and were prepared to move a vote of confidence in them. Aware of those facts, the late Government came unhesitatingly to the conclusion that the question lay between their existence as an Administration on the one side and the question of Reform upon the other. They were not desirous to retire, not insensible to the honour and distinction of being entrusted with the guidance of the policy that was to govern an empire such as this; but they believed the interest of the public in the settlement of the question of Reform to be a vital interest. They saw that if they continued in office they would still be exposed to the same description of opposition as had up to that time barred their way; and they knew perfectly well that, on the other hand, they retired, the triumph of Reform was absolutely certain. There was an old and almost a sacred saying that the blood of martyrs was the seed of the Church.

He then proceeded to show that the Act of 1867 had been so amended and altered during its progress through Parliament that one of the most distinguished and respectable men who had supported the Government, the Duke of Buccleuch, had said that there was nothing in the Act of the original bill except the one word "whereas," at the commencement. The Act was without doubt an enormous advance in the political growth of England. He did not

pretend to feel any admiration whatever for the manner in which it had been carried; but he must look at the Act in itself, and at what it did, and what it promised to do, for the people of England. It involved principles and conveyed admissions which were sure to lead to the amendment of the faults which he found in it; and so, looking upon the Act, he congratulated his constituents upon its passing as upon a great progress in the career of British liberty. After describing the Conservative party as the unnatural parents of the bill, he commented at some length on the principles of representation. He said he regretted the Ministerial declarations about increasing the number of the House of Commons. It was at present too large, rather than too small, for a deliberative assembly. He did not say the number should be decreased, but he thought it ought not to be increased. Conviction, and an overpowering sense of public interest—in spite of early associations and many long-cherished predispositions—had placed him among the Liberal party. He then replied to Mr. Disraeli's speech at Edinburgh.

Mr. Disraeli stated that, in his recollection, he believed during his Parliamentary career, there were thirty-two measures of vital importance and benefit; in fact, as he understood him, the thirty-two measures which had been supported by the party with which he was associated, and bitterly opposed in other quarters of the House. He (Mr. Gladstone) read that declaration with the utmost pain, because Mr. Disraeli supported what he invariably opposed, and he found himself, therefore, in the painful predicament of being totally excluded, after a number of years of hard labour, from having had anything to do with any of the good laws which had distinguished our recent history, given satisfaction to the people, and strengthened the interests of the country. He could not tell them with what degree of curiosity he was excited with regard to that list. During the last Session trying matters of a domestic character prevented the asking of questions with regard to those measures and with regard to that education on questions of Reform to which it appeared the Conservative party had, without knowing it, been subjected during the past seven years. When people had to be educated the first object was to open their eyes; but in this kind of education it was essential that they should not know anything about it, or suppose what was being done, till the last moment, when they might no longer be treated as playing at blindman's-buff, when the handkerchief should be taken from their eyes, and they should discover, to their intense satisfaction, that they had been undergoing, without knowing it, a process of education which their educators desired them to acquire. Amongst the advances in the art of physic of late was the one of making the taking of it agreeable; and it appeared to him that this system of medicine had been adopted by the Conservative party. That party had been dosed with the principles of Parliamentary Reform whilst it believed it was walking in the opposite direction. It now discovered what it had been about, and it seemed perfectly well pleased; and if that party was well pleased, he knew no reason why everyone else should not be.

In conclusion he contended that all the great reforms of late years had been the work of the Liberal and not of the Conservative party.

Mr. Gladstone addressed a crowded assembly in the Music Hall, Southport, and commented on a great number of subjects. In regard to the Abyssinian war, he said:—

He believed that the whole people of England, without distinction of party, must regard that expedition with unfeigned regret. He regretted it from many points of view; but, at the same time, standing there as one who deliberately withheld his confidence from the Executive Government of the moment, he was bound to say that he could not attach any special blame to those now in power in connection with this unfortunate necessity. If there was a special lesson to be learnt from the difficulty in which we now found ourselves, he thought it was this, that we should be more wary and more shy than we had hitherto been about establishing diplomatic relations with countries and with Sovereigns on whose civilisation reliance could not be placed to the degree which was necessary to give a reasonable assurance of the stability and safety of those relations. It was the tendency of commerce—a happy and beneficial tendency—never to be content with its present conquests so long as there were new realms to be subdued. He did not presume to advocate the checking of that tendency, but it required to be watched when it assumed the character of a disposition prematurely to force the Government of England, through the exercise possibly of active, though partial, influences, into the contraction of engagements of this character, which, when once formed, we found it impossible either to sustain with safety or to recede from with honour.

Having expressed himself as opposed to the ballot, except in the case of the spread of intimidation, which was scarcely possible, and to shortened Parliaments, he again commented briefly on the subject of education, and then came to the Irish question.

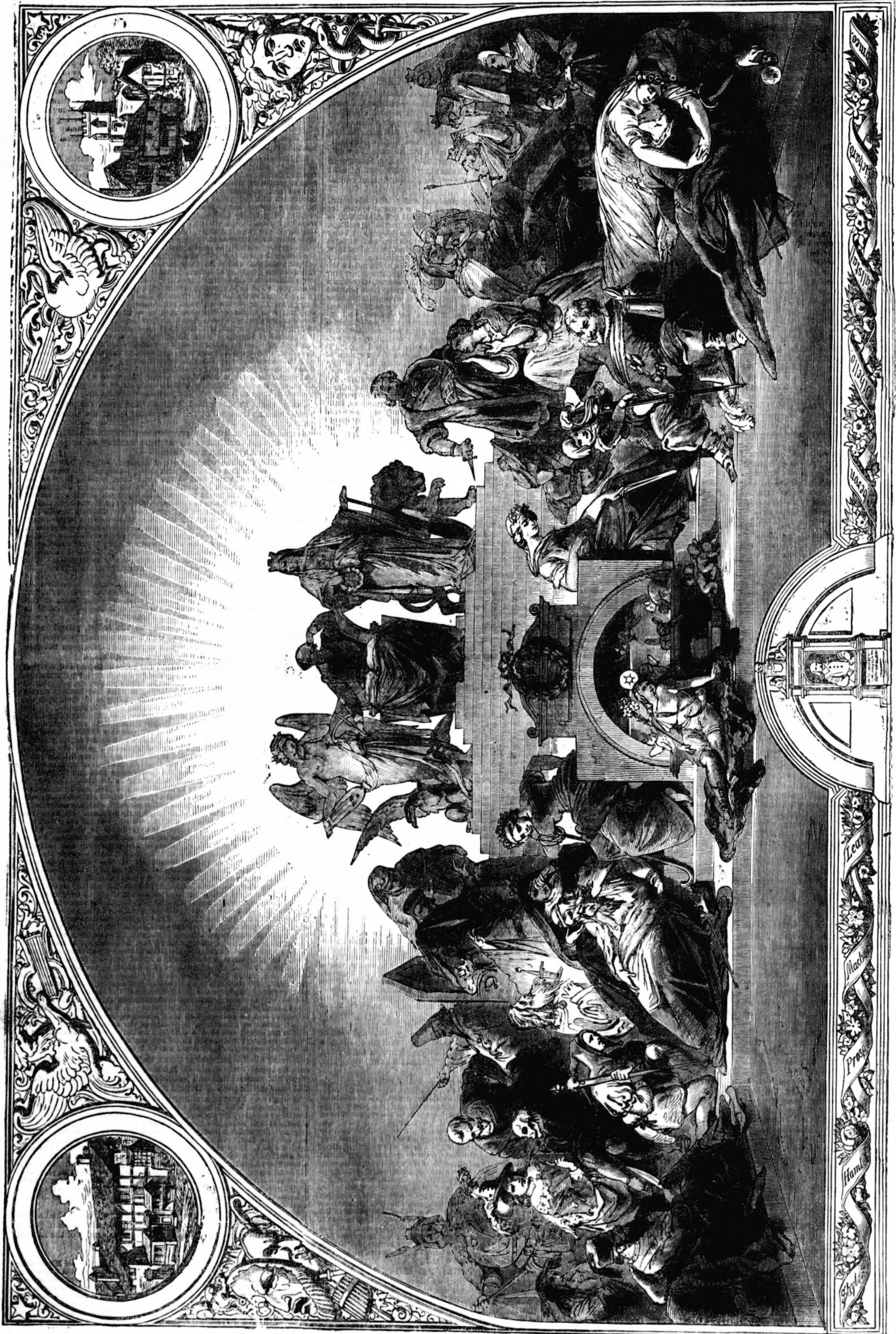
He entertained a deep conviction that the name of Ireland and all that belonged to that name would probably find for Government, for Parliament, and for the people the most difficult and anxious portion of their political employment for years to come. In referring to what they had seen during the last few weeks, he intended to speak as plainly as he could upon the subject of what was known by the designation of Fenianism. In the present state of the public mind, after occurrences so wicked and detestable, he wished to urge upon the public and upon himself these two fundamental cautions—first, that in considering those outrages they should endeavour to preserve an equal temper and perfect self-command; the second was that they should not confound the cause of Fenianism with the cause of Ireland. . . . It was a great advance in modern civilisation which had led to the lenient treatment of political offenders—an advance of which they had an illustrious example in the proceedings that had followed the conclusion of the dreadful and desperate war in America. Leniency to political offenders he believed to be alike wise and just, but he altogether denied—and he was speaking now not of persons but of acts—that acts such as they had lately seen were entitled to the partial immunities and leniency that ought to be granted to offences properly political. He knew not whom it might please or whom it might offend; but his conviction was that there was a deep moral taint and degradation in the thing which was called Fenianism. He arrived at that conclusion when the Fenian invasion of Canada took place. Canada was notoriously and perfectly guiltless in respect to Ireland; and he said that to carry fire and sword within her borders merely because it was dreamed or supposed that through Canada some disgrace or wound might be inflicted upon England, was the very height and depth of human wickedness and baseness. He was not surprised at what had taken place in Manchester. He could not for a moment admit that offences of that kind ought to be treated with great leniency and tenderness. They were told that the men who went to stop the police van with revolvers did not mean any harm, and that it was an accident that led to bloodshed. The allegation had been used, and with no small effect in Ireland, that the attempt and the intention was not to kill Brett but to blow open the door of the van. The evidence was that the pistol was fired through the ventilator; and, undoubtedly, he who wished to blow open a door did not fire his pistol through a part that was already open. But, further, it was treated as a sort of accident, forsooth, that the police, instead of calmly submitting to the demand of the party who intercepted them, should have offered such resistance as they were able; and that Brett, with the spirit of a man and an Englishman, should have refused to do anything great or small in furtherance of the objects of the breakers of the law. The anticipation and the belief upon which that plea of excuse was founded was, forsooth, that the policeman had no sense of duty, no principle, and no courage, and that, therefore, being an animal without either honour or conscience, his business the moment danger appeared was to run away; and that a confident reckoning might be made that he would run away; and that if he did not, but acted under a sense of duty, and died in consequence, his death was to be regarded as an accident.

Having alluded in similar terms to the Clerkenwell outrage, he said he hoped there would be nothing like rigour or severity exercised, but that the firm and just administration of the law would be maintained. Regarding Ireland herself, he said:—

It was, to say the least, a matter of sadness that, after 600 years of political connection with Ireland, that union of heart and spirit which was absolutely necessary for the welfare of that country had not yet been brought about. It was impossible to exaggerate that fact or the gravity of the responsibility which it brought to the Government of this country. There was no doubt that, even as matters stood, there was great improvement upon the past. Civil rights had been extended; odious penalties had been removed; religious distinctions that formerly existed had been effaced, and a better and a milder spirit had recently taken possession of British legislation with regard to Ireland. At the same time, if we wished to place ourselves in a condition to grapple with the Irish problem as it ought to be grappled with, there was but one way to do it—to suppose ourselves in the position of Irishmen, and then say honestly whether we would be satisfied with the state of things that now existed.

Having alluded in detail to several matters which required attention, repudiating any idea of conciliating Ireland by doses of public money; and to the continued integrity and popularity of the Liberal party, he concluded amidst great applause.

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.—A telegram from Colonel Merewether has been received at the India Office containing news of the Abyssinian expedition to the 5th inst. The prospects of the expedition were very favourable. The people were friendly, and two or three influential chiefs had tendered their friendship and support. The report that the Emperor Theodore had burnt Debra Tabor is confirmed. He was trying to reach Magdala, but his advance was opposed by the country people, and it is probable one of the rebellious chiefs will be there before him with a large force.



STRATFORD SCHOOL.

SHAKESPEARE SURROUNDED BY HIS PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS.

THE POET'S BIRTHPLACE.

LONDON DISSENTING CHAPELS.

THE Dissenters of London have done a great deal of late years to beautify the city. They have erected a large number of new chapels, many of which are characterised by considerable architectural elegance. Our Engraving represents four recently constructed, regarding which we subjoin a few particulars.

The Caledonian-road Wesleyan and Methodist chapel is constructed to seat 1030 persons, and cost, with price of site, £6500. This chapel is in the best style of "pie-crust" Gothic, and has attached to it one large school-room on the ground floor, together with residence for chapel-keeper, &c. The first stone was laid on May 31, 1865, and the chapel was opened for worship on May 25, 1866.

The Wesleyan chapel in Leighton-road, Kentish Town, was opened on Oct. 5, 1864, the architect being Mr. Tarring, from whose designs several very effective and moderately cheap chapels have of late years been built in London for both the Wesleyan and Congregational bodies. The house is constructed to accommodate 1060 sitters, which it does comfortably. The entire cost was £5027,

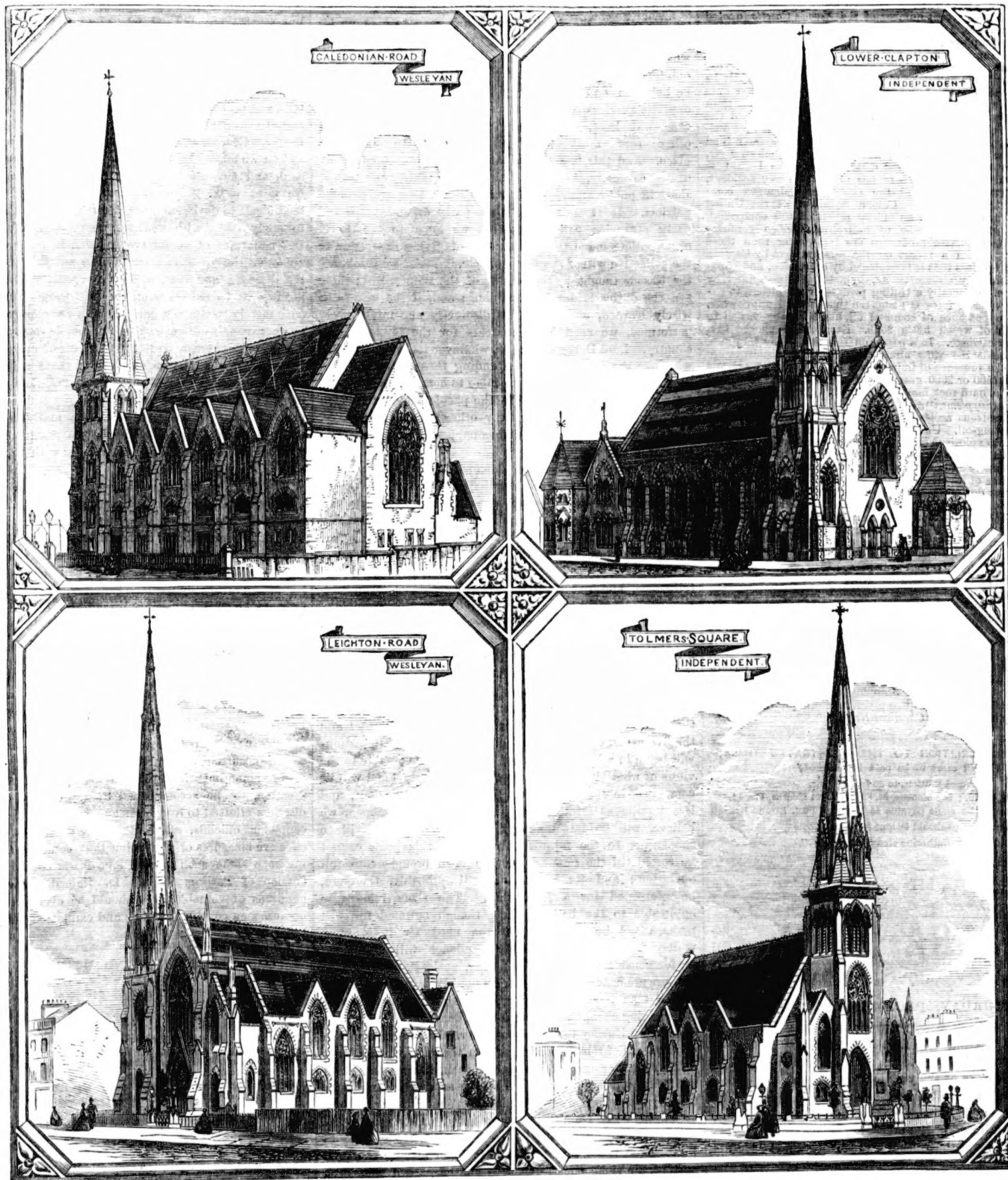
which includes fencing charge and all internal fittings. The whole sum was raised by the voluntary contributions of friends, with the exception of a grant of £875 and a loan of £500 from the Metropolitan Wesleyan Chapel Building Fund. This fund, established about five years ago, has given a considerable impulse to Wesleyan chapel-building in London, and is largely and liberally supported by members of the body in the metropolis. Sir Francis Lycett, in addition to large donations previously, gave last year the handsome contribution of £6000. The spire of this chapel is generally considered strikingly beautiful, and the whole external appearance such as to make it an ornament to the neighbourhood; while for internal comfort, acoustic properties, &c., it is all that can be desired.

The Independent chapel in Lower Clapton, at the corner of Dalston-lane, seats 887 adults. It is built of Kentish rag, with Boxhill stone for the spire and dressings, and Caen stone for the choir-arch, with polished Aberdeen granite shafts at the door. The spire is 113 ft. in height; and there are attached to the chapel a large school-room, infant school, class-rooms, vestries, lavatories, &c. The architect is Mr. H. Fuller.

The Congregational chapel in Tolmer-square, Hampstead-road, is another of Mr. Tarring's erections, and cost about £6000, schools and land included. It is 70 ft. long, 46 ft. wide, and 40 ft. high. The interior is very beautiful. The ceiling is highly decorated, and is divided into eight bays by cross beams, each bay containing three squares, with octagonal panels. The seats have reclining backs; and the pulpit is chastely decorated. The chapel is fitted with stained glass in quatrefoils, and with wheel windows, by Wallis, of Newcastle. The organ was supplied by Connacher and Co., of Huddersfield; and the gas standards, which are exceedingly rich, by Skidmore, of Coventry. There are 539 sittings, which were all let at the time the chapel was opened; and about 300 children attend the Sunday schools.

SHAKESPEARE AND HIS CHARACTERS.

SHAKESPEARE is rather at a discount at the theatres at this time of year. He is superseded by pantomime. But he is never at a discount in the library or by the fireside; and so the



NEW DISSENTING CHAPELS IN LONDON.

Engraving we this week publish of the immortal bard surrounded by the principal characters he has created, will be welcome to our readers. Those who are familiar with the plays, either from reading or theatrical representation, will have no difficulty in distinguishing the various figures shown. They will at once recognise Ophelia and the Princely Dane; the "delicate Ariel" and the learned Prospero; the crookbacked English tyrant and the jealous "Moor of Venice"; the gentle Cordelia and ancient Lear, truly "more sinned against than sinning"; the Jew; the "Royal Dane"; Touchstone the inimitable; the "fat Knight," not only witty himself, but the cause that wit was in other men; Macbeth and his stern dame; together with a host of other immortalities which we will not particularise. Truly a picture this that suggests pleasing reminiscences of the works that are for all time. The vignettes in the corners represent respectively the poet's birthplace and the school where he was educated.

NITRO-GLYCERINE.

"NITRO-GLYCERINE [$C_3H_5N_3O_9$, or $C_6H_5(NO_2)_3O_6$], known also as Glonoin or Glonoin Oil, is a compound which is produced by the action of a mixture of strong nitric and sulphuric acids on glycerine at low temperatures. Two methods of preparing it are

given in Watts's 'Dictionary of Chemistry,' vol. ii., pp. 890, 891, to which we must refer the reader who seeks for details on this subject. According to whatever method it is prepared, it is obtained as a light yellow oily liquid, of specific gravity 1.595, inodorous, but having a sweet, pungent, aromatic taste; a single drop, however, if placed on the back of the tongue, produces headache and pain in the back, which last for many hours. At 240 deg., or higher, it is liable to explode, and, if exposed for a length of time to half that temperature, explosion may take place at 180 deg., or less; and it detonates when struck, the explosion being excessively rapid, and unaccompanied by smoke. This explosive or detonating power renders nitro-glycerine a useful agent in blasting. It has been patented by a German, under the name of 'Nobel's Patent Blasting Oil.' Many of our readers doubtless recollect the history of a terrific explosion that took place on board the ship *European*, when lying in harbour at Colon, Panama, on April 3, 1866. Amongst the cargo put on board at Liverpool were seventy cases of nitro-glycerine, and one case containing 70,000 percussion-caps. At seven a.m. on the 3rd a most tremendous explosion occurred in the after part of the ship. It was described as most rapid, without smoke, but with a great flame, and the ship was immediately after seen to be on fire. The whole of the deck and cabin aft were carried away, and the side of the ship was also much damaged, the plates above the water-line being blown

away and the parts below it being much injured. For fear of other explosions, the ship was towed into the bay, where she shortly sunk. Nor was the injury confined to the *European*; the jetty was nearly blown away, and a vessel lying on the other side of it was much damaged. Houses in the town were also partially destroyed, the floors in many cases being torn up; and altogether about fifty lives were lost. When the bodies were recovered they presented no sign of smoke nor any symptoms of scalding; and hence it was inferred that the explosion could not have been produced either by the percussion-caps or by steam. On these and other grounds, the conclusion was irresistible that the explosion was due to the nitro-glycerine. An action has just (August, 1867) been brought at Liverpool by the owners of the *European* against the shippers of the nitro-glycerine on the ground that no due notice of the dangerous properties of that compound had been given; and at this trial several important points regarding the explosive properties of nitro-glycerine were elicited from Professor Abel, chemist to the laboratory at Woolwich; Colonel Boxer, superintendent of the Woolwich Laboratory; and Professor Roscoe, who appeared as scientific witnesses. According to Abel, the greater the quantity of oil, the lower would be the degree of temperature necessary to explode it; and, having in experiments exploded twelve to twenty drops by keeping them for six hours daily at a temperature of 180 deg., he

had formed the conclusion that a temperature of 110 deg. to 130 deg. would explode the quantity contained in the cases. Moreover, the commercial article, being far from pure, contains a certain quantity of free acid, which generates a gas and produces decomposition; by which the heat is increased, which again increases the decomposition; and thus the commercial oil has a greater tendency to explode than the pure compound. Moreover, the compound, when saturated with this gas, increases in bulk, and its pressure against the sides of the case becomes stronger, thus rendering it more liable to be exploded by concussion. To give some definite idea of the explosive force of this substance, Professor Roscoe stated that one case of it would have sufficed for the destruction of the European. It is used to a considerable extent in the slate quarries in Wales and in mining operations. A workman at one of those quarries described how he had been set to clean a waggon which had held some of it, which he did by scraping it with a piece of slate; and, inadvertently throwing the piece of slate into the waggon when he had finished, the percussion exploded the remnants of the oil and the waggon was blown to pieces. He states that it is regarded as ten times as powerful an explosive agent as gunpowder.

"We learn from a recent number of the *Nevada Gazette* (quoted in the *Chemical News*, Aug. 16, 1867) that this substance is being advantageously employed in the blasting necessary for the construction of the summit tunnel on the Central Pacific Railway. The operation is said to be going on 25 per cent faster than if powder had been used. The small holes required for the oil can probably be drilled in less than one third the time required for the larger ones necessary in using powder. The oil does much more execution than powder, as it always breaks the rock from 2 in. to 16 in. beyond the hole, and also throws out a much larger body. The oil is here estimated as having, in hard rock, a strength five times greater than powder. It is made upon the spot, and is considered much stronger, as well as safer, than the imported compound. It has been now used for several months, and there has never been any accident, nor has a single blast missed fire since the Chinamen commenced filling the cartridges. Colonel Schaffner, of the United States army, has published an official report on this compound, to which he gives the name of 'nitro-leum,' which confirms the fact that its explosive properties are far greater than those of gunpowder. From a report on the same subject by Captain Grant, R.N., it appears that it is exploded by concussion, and apparently, under ordinary circumstances, by nothing else—neither by friction nor fire. Generally a trifling percussion is sufficient to explode it. Its explosive force is about ten times that of gunpowder. It has all the appearance of common oil, and is usually carried in tin cases, each of which holds 25 lb. Each can is packed in a wooden case for carriage. In a paper on this subject by M. Kopp, that chemist holds the view already noticed, that accidents are mainly due to the presence of impurities. He states that, by means of charges of 1500 or 2000 grammes of oil, from forty to eighty cubic metres of a hard rock may be detached."—From "*Chambers's Encyclopedia*" (Supplement).

"Another disastrous accident has happened with this recently introduced blasting-oil. Unless means are taken by the manufacturers to prevent explosions causing such lamentable results as that which occurred at Newcastle on Tuesday, a valuable blasting agent will be lost to miners and quarries. If this be the case, however, the manufacturers of it will have themselves to blame, for explosions of nitro-glycerine during transport or storage ought to be unknown. Nitro-glycerine dissolved in two or three times its bulk of methylated spirit is quite innoxious, and, when required for use, the addition of water will precipitate the oil, the layer of water and spirit merely requiring decanting off. The nitro-glycerine separated in this way possesses explosive properties quite as active as the original oil, which, indeed, is frequently rather improved than otherwise by the treatment. The process we have described is sometimes used. At Newcastle a part of one canister was found after the explosion marked 'Safety solution of nitro-glycerine in wood naphtha.' It is, however, quite certain that there must have been a quantity of oil present either entirely untreated or treated with an insufficient quantity of the protecting fluid. It should be remembered that nitro-glycerine dissolved in a small quantity of methylated spirit or of wood naphtha in warm weather might crystallise out in winter when the temperature approaches the freezing point of water. Probably this is what occurred. Shipping agents and railway companies should refuse to receive nitro-glycerine unless protected in the manner already indicated."—*Chemical News*.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1867.

HOME EVENTS OF 1867.

It is a not unprofitable practice, though sometimes far from pleasant, at the close of the year to "take a backward glance at wasted time," and to balance, as it were, the account of national gains and losses, progresses and retrogressions, successes and failures, of the preceding twelve months. This task falls to the lot of the journalist especially, whose vocation it is to record and comment upon the current events of the day.

Naturally, in a country like ours, where public affairs occupy so large a measure of the attention of the people, politics take the foremost place in the mind of the publicist. And here, as elsewhere, the history of 1867 is of so chequered a character that it is difficult to determine whether we have more to congratulate ourselves upon than to regret. For mere party politics, as our readers know, we care little, and take but slight interest as to who are the "outs" and who the "ins," which party wins and which loses; but in national politics—in the affairs of the commonwealth at large—we take a deep and lively concern, and we hope our readers do so likewise. And in this domain the events of 1867 will occupy a prominent place in history, for it cannot be gainsaid that this year has witnessed a great political as well as party revolution. An immense stride has been taken in the direction of democracy; a larger development has been given than ever marked the history of this country before to the doctrine that government for the whole people shall be by the whole people. The Reform Bill of 1867—even clogged as it is by shortcomings and hampered by imper-

fections—has given enormous potency to the *vox populi*; in how far that will approximate to the *vox Dei* depends on the wisdom, the moderation, and the earnest patriotism of the whole people, and of all classes thereof. Heretofore, the law-making and governing power has been in a large degree monopolised by what are called the "upper ranks" of society, who are likely to enjoy that preponderance no longer: their privileges will now be shared by what are denominated "the lower orders." And, if the affairs of the realm are to be wisely and justly managed, all must make their influence felt. There must neither be abdication of position by one class nor over-persistence and undue self-assertion on the part of others. There must neither be selfish sloth nor foolish impatience of unwonted opposition on the one hand, nor fierce assaults and unreasoning demands on the other. We do not expect any man to give up his opinions and desires in deference to those of his neighbours; what we desire to see is, that all citizens shall make their opinions felt in legitimate action; so that extreme views may be balanced and softened by influences emanating from opposite quarters. Class supremacy of one kind is gone for ever—at least, we hope so; class supremacy of another sort must not be permitted to take its place. And this, we think, can only be prevented by all of us earnestly, honestly, and calmly taking our proper share in public affairs; by being, in short, true and genuine patriots. It is not likely that party organisations and party struggles will cease; but we hope to see party organisations made the instruments of giving expression to the collective will of the whole people. These, we think, are the lessons taught by the passing of the Reform Bill; these are the duties it devolves upon us; and, if the lessons be wisely learned, and the duties discreetly and intelligently performed, we need have no fears for the future of our country. Lord Derby's measure, whatever its drawbacks and whatever the circumstances attending its passing, will be a great gain, and will have done more to consolidate our institutions, to give contentment to the people, and to "sweeten the breath of society," than any other public event—save, perhaps, corn-law repeal—that has happened during the last quarter of a century.

Into the defects—or alleged defects—of the measure it will not be necessary to enter at length just now. Ample opportunities for discussing these will present themselves next year. They belong more to the future than to the past, and it will be sufficient to indicate in what we conceive they lie. The distribution of representation must be still further amended, so as to make power dependent on numbers, wealth, and intelligence, and not upon mere local accidents. The rate-paying clauses will have to be revised, and the principle of personal payment abandoned in fact, as, even by its authors, it already is in name. The county franchise will likewise, in all probability, be further extended ere long; and we should not be surprised to find the Conservatives, for the sake of their own interests, the most earnest in promoting that extension by-and-by. We suspect they will speedily find that the twelve-pound rental and the five-pound copyhold, leasehold, and freehold qualifications will bring in a large number of voters not favourable to the views of what Mr. Mill called "the stupid party," and will be compelled to seek support in lower, less independent, and less intelligent strata of society. Country gentlemen, we believe, will be fain ere long to appeal from the village shopkeeper to the farm-labourer. But this point cannot be tested till the new system has been brought into full operation; and its settlement will probably, therefore, be postponed for a few years. The same remark is applicable to the ballot, which, though agitated for, will perhaps not be adopted till the need for it is more widely felt. The law as to residence will also come up for consideration soon, in so far, at least, as registered electors are concerned, for it seems neither necessary nor just that a man should lose his vote for a year or more merely from having changed his place of residence from the bounds of one constituency to those of another. Disfranchisement in consequence of removal is in itself an absurdity, for a man is neither a better nor a worse citizen from having passed an artificial boundary line. It should be as easy for an elector to carry the voting power with him from one borough or county to another—say from Finsbury to Marylebone, from Southwark to Greenwich, from Middlesex to Essex, from Surrey to Kent—as it is for him to retain it when moving from one part of the same constituency to another. All that it is necessary to ensure is, that he shall still continue to fulfil the legal conditions—that, in other words, his qualification shall remain as good.

The extension of political power, it is admitted on all hands, has given increased importance to popular education and the spread of intelligence. And though little—we may say nothing—has been done this year for the institution of an efficient and adequate system of national education, it is no small gain that an awakening of the public mind has taken place on the subject. The felt necessity of providing a proper system of instruction for the people will beget the desire to supply it; and, where there's a will, we may be sure there will be found a way. Party prejudices and class interests will have to yield on this as on other subjects; and effective measures, we are persuaded, will ere many years pass by be adopted for dissipating that heathen ignorance which unhappily exists among us to so enormous an extent. Our own views on the matter have been often expressed; and though we do not conceal from ourselves that there are grave difficulties in the way of their realisation, we are, as we have

said on a previous occasion, content to work and to wait, confident that broad and sound ideas will prevail in the end.

Hitherto, our retrospect of 1867, if not perfectly satisfactory, has been tinged at least with hopefulness. Now we must turn to darker and less pleasing themes. Ireland and Fenianism! these are the incubi that now weigh most heavily upon us. Ah! what a sad, what a troublous legacy was that bequeathed to England by Strongbow and his companions in the conquest of Ireland! Would that Henry and Pembroke had let the Irish and their internal quarrels alone! And yet the union of their destinies with ours was, sooner or later, inevitable; and much as we have to regret in connection with Ireland, perhaps the most regrettable thing of all is that she is so near our shores. Were she but further off, the problem of her government, so far as great Britain is concerned, might be solved by—separation. But, as we cannot alter our relative geographical positions, we must "accept the situation" and meet the difficulty as we can; for it cannot be disguised that Ireland is still, as she has for many generations been, England's great difficulty. The spirit of disaffection, discontent, and rebellion engendered in the Irish—first by conquest, and afterwards by long ages of oppression and misuse—has to be eradicated, and we must brace ourselves up to the task as best we may. It is a peculiar race with whom we have to deal, and ticklish and delicate is the ground on which we must walk. Right remedies for existing evils it may be difficult to devise, and perhaps it will be still more difficult to apply them with moderation, discretion, and wisdom. But two rules of action are sufficiently obvious, and these are—that the remedies used must be adequate to the cure of the disease; and that, while we repress violence, we must not neglect to redress wrongs. We should not be content with merely "stamping out" Fenian atrocity; we ought also to endeavour to discover, and if possible remove, the causes that give Fenianism power. With disaffection rife among Irishmen, and a portion at least of them animated by the spirit that dictated the Manchester and Clerkenwell outrages, it is in vain to speak of them as brethren and fellow-countrymen. They repudiate the association; and an effort must be made to induce them to feel, if that be practicable, that it is good to be of us as well as with us; for with us, for good or for evil, they must needs be.

The year about to close has been fruitful in disasters by flood and fire. We have had, even early as the winter yet is, severe hurricanes on our own coasts, and in places where we have much interest, both in the Eastern and the Western hemisphere, have fared still worse. These, having been the result of causes beyond human control, call for no remark save regret and sympathy with the sufferers. It is otherwise, however, as regards explosions in mines, of which 1867 has witnessed a full share, the most terrible being that in Ferndale colliery. And the reflection that these disasters might be prevented oppresses the mind with a sadly melancholy feeling. To faulty construction of the mines and working apparatus and arrangements, and to almost inconceivable recklessness on the part of employes, a great many, if not most, of those mining accidents are due. As it is, therefore, possible to rectify these defects, it is to be hoped that experience and the occurrence of catastrophe upon catastrophe will ere long lead to amendment. Perhaps a more efficient system of inspection, to be accomplished by reducing the area of the districts allotted to inspectors and increasing the number of competent officials, will be the first and most immediately effective measures of prevention that could be adopted; and we hope some such step will be initiated during the next Session of Parliament. It is, indeed, humiliating that hundreds of valuable lives should be every year sacrificed because men continue reckless and cannot be compelled to be prudent.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY has sent £25 to the widow of the late Sergeant Brett.

LORD CAIRNS has been elected Chancellor of Dublin University by 35 votes out of 36.

MR. C. A. MOODY, formerly M.P. for West Somerset, died at Nice on the 17th inst., after a short illness.

THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE has accepted an invitation to a banquet to be given by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce to himself, Lord Stanley, and other influential members of Parliament connected with the town and county.

LORD CHAMBOURNE is to have a seat at the board of the Great Eastern Railway, and will, it is said, by-and-by take the post of chairman of the board.

LORD SOMERS has presented the castle grounds at Reigate to the Corporation of that town for the benefit of the public, and the local authorities have formed a committee to make the property as valuable as possible to Reigate and the neighbourhood.

THE HON. COLONEL TESSIGER, eldest son of the Lord Chancellor, received on Saturday last a telegram, from Sir Robert Napier, offering him the appointment of Adjutant-General to the force destined for Abyssinia. Colonel Tessiger has telegraphed his acceptance of the appointment, and has started to join the expedition.

MR. CHARLES KEAN is so far improved in health that he will shortly enter upon his professional duties. Cheltenham, we believe, is the town where Mr. Kean will commence, and where he will play a farewell engagement about the middle or end of January.

DR. KENEALY, since he withdrew from the defence of the Fenian prisoners, has received several threatening letters.

MR. CHARLES RANN KENNEDY, known for his connection with the Swinfen divorce case, has died at Birmingham in very reduced circumstances.

THE QUEEN'S BUTCHERS at Windsor have been informed that they must not charge more than 8d. per pound for the best joints of mutton.

THE COLOSSAL BRONZE STATUE OF LORD PALMERSTON, by Noble, intended for the market-place at Rome, has just been successfully cast, and will be ready for inauguration about Easter.

MR. J. B. TORR AND MR. W. P. McDONALD have been engaged as counsel for "Colonel" Burke and for Casey. It is also intended to retain Mr. Coleridge, Q.C., M.P., for these prisoners, or either of them who may be committed for trial.

BROTHER IGNAZIUS has announced that he intends to leave St. Bartholomew's, Cripple-gate.

THE RUSSIAN WAR OFFICE has adopted a needle-gun similar to the Prussian pattern, but which, it is said, can be fired more quickly. A skilled soldier can fire fourteen shots a minute.

THE EFFECT OF A REDUCTION OF RATES in stimulating business has again been illustrated in the case of the Atlantic Telegraph Company. The charge for a message was altered on the 1st inst. from £10 to £5 5s., and since that date the receipts have shown an average daily excess of £200 over those of the preceding time.

SIGNOR CAMPANA is in Paris, on his way to Milan, with a new opera in his portfolio, entitled "Notre Dame de Paris." The libretto, in four acts, is from the pen of Signor Cimino.

MR. JOHN HANNON, residing near Rathcoormac, Ireland, who gave evidence on the trial of a Fenian head centre, was fired at from a plantation, when riding home in the evening. Though his hat was riddled with slugs he received but a slight wound in the head.

FREDERICK BAKER, condemned to death for the murder of the little girl, Fanny Adams, at Alton, in Hampshire, was executed on Tuesday, after having made a confession of his guilt.

SIR GEORGE CLERK, a well-known Conservative politician, died on Monday, at the age of eighty.

THREE MEN WERE KILLED and five seriously hurt by a boiler explosion at Manchester on Monday. The scene of the accident was the dyeworks of Messrs. Chapman and Hall, in Bromley-street. The boiler burst through having become corroded. It was ten years old.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE MIDLAND RAILWAY have intimated that five millions more capital will be required to complete new works. They propose to create £3,750,000 new stock, and to take powers to borrow £1,250,000. The principal item of expenditure is the excess over estimate of the cost of the extension to Euston-road, London.

DR. MENDELSSOHN, son of the illustrious composer and Professor of History in the University of Heidelberg, is about to publish the posthumous works of his father. They comprise a symphony named "The Reform," a funeral march composed for the anniversary of the death of Norbert Bergmüller, a sonata, and ballads without words (*lieder ohne worte*).

THE BOARD OF TRADE have issued a notice to the effect that the meteorological committee appointed by the Royal Society are now prepared to issue, free of cost, to ports or fishing-stations which are accessible by telegraph, notice of serious atmospheric disturbance on the coasts or in the vicinity of the British Islands.

A DOZEN MEN have been arrested at Mitchelstown for Fenianism, and others are looked for. They are shop employees and working tradesmen. A head centre being captured, documents were found compromising the other persons. Five of her Majesty's steam-ships are off the coasts of Clare and Galway in pursuit of a vessel believed to be a Fenian privateer.

THE POOR-LAW BOARD have appointed Mr. Joseph John Henley, of Shirlburn Lodge, Oxfordshire, to be a Poor-Law Inspector, in the room of Dr. Edward Smith, who relinquishes his district to take charge of the medical department at the office of the Poor-Law Board. Mr. Henley has up to the present time been acting as a commissioner for inquiring into the condition of women and children employed in agriculture.

PHOTOGRAPHY has been turned to fresh account in France, as enhancing the attractiveness of playbills and advertising the theatre. These programmes contain in the centre a photograph of some remarkable scenes in the drama which is being played. The Vaudeville, the Opéra Comique, and the Ambigu are the houses wherein at present they may be obtained.

SERGEANT HALL, of the Northumberland constabulary, has been found dead on the beach at the foot of Newbiggin-moor. One of his eyes was knocked out, the face injured, and his watch gone. His hat was found a mile off. A prize-fight had been stopped, and it is suspected that he has been robbed and tossed over the cliffs by the ruffians engaged in it.

THE "FATHER O'CONNOR" who is said by the informer Vaughan to have been the chief speaker at a Fenian meeting held ostensibly for the purpose of promoting the building of a church is not a priest at all. The Roman Catholic Vicar-General of London (the Rev. James O'Neal) writes to say that among the Catholic clergy of London there is only one bearing that name, and he has for more than four years been confined to his room by palsy; while, had he been in possession of his health and strength, he would have been among the first to protest against all seditious practices on the part of Catholics or any subjects of her Majesty.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

As I walked through the streets last week I saw all the usual signs of Christmas coming. Butchers' shops plethoric with fat meat; and prize oxen, prize sheep, and prize hogs, decorated with rosettes, hanging outside. Hundreds of turkeys at the poulterers', with hares, pheasants, and chickens uncountable. Mountains of fruit and forests of holly at the greengrocers'—the latter occupying half the pavement, the new Act to the contrary notwithstanding; and doubtless in many thousands of dwellings there was all the accustomed feasting and jollity with which it is our habit to celebrate our annual Christian festival. But somehow it struck me that, with all this, something of gloom was over all. Perhaps I saw it all through the projected medium of my own shadow; for I honestly confess that I myself was not very much disposed to enjoy a merry Christmas. In the first place, a suspicion has long come to lurk in my mind that there is a something of sham and humbug in our Christmas festivities—something forced and unnatural. A good deal of this is, I think, owing to the High Church reaction. The Puseyite parsons have overdone the thing; they make too much a business of it. Now, when you make a business of pleasure its heartiness and spontaneity, which are the charm of pleasure—its *sine qua non*, indeed—take to themselves wings and fly away. I am afraid old Christmas is fast becoming a humbug.

But, apart from this, is there not something in the aspect of the times calculated to damp our festive ardour? That cry of distress from East London! How could we be buoyantly happy with that agonising cry ringing or moaning in our ears? Ah! that poverty! Poverty in the midst of wealth beyond the dreams of avarice! How can we get rid of it? How is that dark morass to be drained? There is no want of money. Money! There never was a country in the world so wealthy as England is at this moment. But in the midst of all this amazing wealth there is always before our eyes this normal mass of pauperism. True, charity does much to alleviate it; and this year, I think, our wealthy people have come forward more nobly than ever, and, no doubt, thousands by the help of charity got something like a Christmas dinner, who but for the charitable would have got none. But the sorrow is that so many English people should need this charity; that men and women able and willing to work cannot get work, or only get it at wages not sufficient to keep body and soul together. Is this natural? Is it inevitable? Surely it cannot be. There must, one would think, be something wrong in our politico-economic system somewhere. But where is it? Some say it is in our land laws, and at times I fancy there is truth in this. But this is a question too large for a Lounger. But here is a fact, vouched by authority, which seems to me very strange and unaccountable. It is asserted—indeed, I believe that a Parliamentary Committee has reported—that there is in this country as much cultivatable land lying all waste and profitless as would employ all the paupers in England. True, not much rent could be got from it for years. But I am told that if you were to give a labouring man an acre or two of this land he would keep his family on the produce of it. This may be an exaggeration; but if he could do it with ten acres, why not let him have them?

Nor could that Fenian business be otherwise than a damper to the spirits of all thoughtful people. Her Majesty's Ministers, one may be quite sure, did not enjoy a happy Christmas, weighed down as they must be with responsibility and anxiety. Most of them have had to stop in town—at least, so it has been reported to me. "Only a few can leave." Such were Lord Derby's words; and we can easily see the propriety of this. At any moment an emergency may arise requiring a prompt assembly of the Cabinet; indeed, it has been whispered about that it is not improbable that Parliament may be summoned before the appointed time to consider the expediency of suspending the Habeas Corpus Act in England; and really, if the powers vested in the Government be not sufficient to eradicate this dark, daring, reckless conspiracy, we must consent to give them more, and the only way to do this is to suspend the Habeas Corpus.

Having spoken of her Majesty's Ministers, one naturally thinks of her Majesty. It has long been her and our proud boast that our Sovereign can live and travel without a military guard. There have always been sentinels round our Royal palaces, but they are more for ornament than use. Now, however, a regiment has been sent to Osborne to guard the Queen; and when her Majesty looked out of her window on Christmas morning, and saw those soldiers patrolling the grounds, she must have felt very sad, if not somewhat alarmed. Let us hope that she had not read Maguire's book, "The Irish in America," for that is anything but consolatory. He tells us that the great majority of the Irish there, Southerners and Northerners, high and low, rich and poor, are Fenians to the backbone; and, proud of their late achievements in the field, are earnestly hoping for an opportunity to gather under the green flag, and march to avenge their own and their country's wrongs; and

that with many there is a fear lest we should redress the wrongs before opportunity can come to avenge them.

There are several other matters and things which have not had a tendency to increase our merriment this year. In consequence of the Fenian conspiracy, we are to have 1000 more metropolitan police constables. The cost of this additional force, with their superintendents, inspectors, &c., including clothing, will probably touch £100,000 a year. Of this, I think, the Government will pay one fourth; the remaining three fourths will be raised by an addition to the parochial rates.

The most potent cause of our gloom is yet to be mentioned—I refer to the pecuniary losses that most of us have had to sustain. I say we, for, like Dogberry, I am "a fellow that hath had losses;" and really there is hardly a family in England belonging to the upper and middle classes that has not in some way suffered. That financial crash of last year was like a great flood. It not only swept over the mighty plain, but it searched out and scoured hundreds of out-of-the-way little holes and crannies, which nobody ever thought it could reach. And the flood has not subsided yet; nor does it seem likely to subside. Those cruel inquisitors the liquidators are at work now, racking thousands to compel them to pay calls which many of them can no more meet than they can pay the National Debt. I know several good, honest souls, who never owed a penny that they could not pay, who are now abroad at Boulogne or Dieppe, living there to escape these calls; whilst others of my acquaintance, once well to do, are so crippled that they hardly know how to live. We can well believe that to such Christmas has been no festive season.

It seems to me that it was a piece of refined cruelty for the Midland Railway Company to announce just before Christmas that the directors must raise additional capital to the amount of £5,000,000. I know that they could not postpone the announcement longer, as they must go to Parliament, and to do this a copy of the bill must be deposited on or before Dec. 23; but they might have made it known before. If they had done that, we should before Christmas have had time to reflect, and should have got over, in some degree, the effects of this staggering blow. "£5,000,000! Why, that is an addition of one sixth to the capital, and I suppose, means a deduction of at least one sixth from the dividend." Such has been the thought of thousands of Midland stockholders, and the newspapers have sedulously fostered this opinion. "The interest of £5,000,000 at 4 per cent," they say, "is £200,000; and, as it is scarcely possible that the company will earn more than they do now, the shareholders will suffer to this amount." But this is not true. The company now pays to the Great Northern and the London and North-Western, in shape of rent and tolls, nearly £100,000 a year. When the new line into London is opened, all this will be saved. Moreover, the company will earn more. It will have a considerable traffic along the new line, and, moreover, develop an enormous coal trade in London. The Midland runs through some of our finest coal-fields. These are nearer London than any others. At present it does not bring much coal to London, because the tolls payable to the two lines mentioned are heavy; but, when it shall have a line of its own, it will probably do a larger trade than any of the other lines. Now, if the directors had made their announcement earlier the stockholders would have had time to reflect, and, notwithstanding this announcement, might have spent a happy Christmas.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

It is late to speak of the *Fortnightly Review*, but better late than never, and it is too good to pass over. The Scotch are coming up in defence of their marriage law, and Mr. J. Campbell Smith (not Mrs. Longworth-Yelverton's counsel) writes an able article in the *F. R.* maintaining its great superiority to the English law. In "Music and Architecture," it seems to me that Mr. J. M. Capes, though writing with his usual intelligence and accomplishment, has not thought out his subject to the requisite degree of nicety. Surely, from the middle to the bottom of page 709 is more confusing than discriminative. Mr. Swinburne's poem, "A Lost Vigil," must rank among the sweetest things he has written.

The *Contemporary* is one of the best numbers ever issued by any review. It is satisfactory to find a man like Professor I. H. Jellett answering the question, "Doctrinal Unity: Is it Desirable?" in the negative. It is not only "undesirable," it is impossible in the nature of things. If men were morally and physically alike, life would become inanition, for life depends upon differentiated functions. But only upon condition of such a likeness would doctrinal unity be possible, seeing that opinion depends, and must ever depend, upon the whole nature, intellect, feelings, and physique. Therefore doctrinal unity is impossible. Q. E. D. The meaning of saying it is not desirable is, therefore, in strictness, only this—it is not desirable to try for it, even supposing it possible. The Rev. Brooke F. Westcott on "Comte," the Rev. John Hunt on "Lord Herbert of Chesham," and Mr. Edward Dowden on the "Philosophy of Goethe," are most delightful papers. But has not Mr. Dowden made a mistake in the long footnote on page 448? "Half truths of this kind," said Goethe. But what is the bearing of the demonstrative pronoun there? Mr. Dowden blames both Mr. Lewes and Mr. Caro for omitting a sentence of Goethe, which (as I read it) was quite unnecessary to the completion of his meaning; in other words, I fancy Mr. Dowden has referred the "this kind" to the wrong antecedents.

The Christmas number of the *Broadway* is quite up to the usual mark of the magazine. "Flesh and Tinsel"—an account of a man's fortunes with his first pantomime—is as funny as it could well be made, considering the antiquity of the topic. Mr. Sala, in "New-Year's Day in New York," is, of course, amusing. The American poet Mr. R. H. Stoddard, Mr. H. Savile Clarke, and Mr. William Sawyer contribute some really nice verses. Mr. Sawyer is a genuine singer, who can do what is excellent, if he has the chance, and we are all looking out for something from him in that kind.

Punch's Almanac contains one picture by Mr. Du Maurier—the long genealogical picture in the middle—which is a profound study. Let not the thoughtful reader miss it, or treat it lightly! But, look here—

PROVED BY QUOTATION.—The antiquity of some of our great legal firms is remarkable. For instance, Milton (let us hope not under pecuniary pressure) says, "To-morrow to Freshfields."

Oh, Mr. Punch, for shame! This *mis*-quotation has been publicly corrected 15,793 times—so they tell me at the Statistical Society, in St. James's-square, where I have been to inquire. If the reader will turn to the last line of "Lycidas" he will see that "fresh fields" should be "fresh woods;" and, indeed, a field is pretty much like pasture—isn't it?

In one of Mr. Gladstone's speeches the other day he said the University of Oxford had been "led by the nose" on a certain occasion, and then apologised for the phrase, because a University might not, perhaps, have a nose. What, not Brazenose, Mr. Gladstone?

It is announced that on the conclusion, in March, of the present volume Mrs. J. H. Riddell, author of "George Geith," &c., will undertake the literary conduct of the *St. James's Magazine*; and that in the April number will appear the opening chapters of a new novel by Mrs. Riddell and articles of interest by eminent writers.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Boucicault's comedy, "How She Loves Him!" was produced at the PRINCE OF WALES'S on Saturday night last, with only partial success. That its success was not more decided is entirely Mr. Boucicault's fault—the acting of the piece being, with one exception, excellent. Mr. Boucicault's comedy is a curious composition. It is admirably written in many parts, and well written throughout. There is not much attempt at development of original character—most of the personages of the piece being well-worn stage types—but the dialogue is so brilliant (particularly in the first act) that one is tempted to overlook this deficiency. Indeed, the very brilliancy of the dialogue is enough in itself to swamp all nice dis-

tinction of character. Mr. Boucicault has made all his personages witty and epigrammatic; he scatters good things among them, without allowing the consideration whether the good things that fall to the share of individual characters are the sort of good things that those individual characters would be likely to say. The story is weak and impossible to the last degree. It may be told in a few words: Mr. and Mrs. Nettletop have been divorced; Mr. Nettletop still loves Mrs. Nettletop, and in order to induce her to re-marry him, he affects a delicate condition of health, and this ruse eventually brings her to his side, and they are re-married. Also, Mr. Dick Hartley, a penniless young gentleman, loves Miss Atalanta Cruiser, the adopted daughter of Sir Abel Hotspur, an Indian millionaire. Sir Abel, however, turns out to be Dick's father, who had deserted his wife in early life, and Dick's indignation at his father's behaviour will not allow him to accept the settlement which the old gentleman intended to make on his adopted daughter's marriage, and the young couple elope, get married, and live in poverty. Eventually the difficulty respecting Sir Abel's treatment of his wife is cleared up, and he showers gold upon them in reckless profusion. A dandy dangle after Mrs. Nettletop, an insolent servant of Sir Abel, and a scheming old widow who lives on the proceeds of imaginary raffles, and four or five representative doctors, complete the list of characters. This very dimly story is spun out into five acts, whereas it might be fairly told in three acts, if not in two. It is disguised by the introduction of pantomime "fun" of the broadest description, and it is disgraced by some *double entendres* which should never have passed the censor. It is, on the whole, excellently acted. Miss Wilton played the merry, good-hearted little flirt with her usual delightful sauciness; but, beyond the fact that the part allowed her to exhibit this attribute, it can hardly be said to be worthy of her. Miss Foote, as Mrs. Nettletop, had an unreasonable part to play, but she did her best with it. Mr. Hare, as Mr. Nettletop, found himself in an entirely new line of character. He has hitherto been known as the very best representative we possess of small characters with strongly marked peculiarities; in Mr. Boucicault's comedy he plays a weak young man, with a certain talent for hypocrisy and deception, and no other peculiarity whatever, except a slight stutter. Mr. Hare plays the part well; he would play Julius Cæsar, or Hamlet, or Jeremy Diddler well; for he is an artist, and never makes mistakes. But it was impossible not to see that Mr. Hare, who is a remarkably natural actor, was seriously hampered by the conventional nature of the character he had to sustain, and by a certain staginess which characterised portions of the dialogue, in spite of its general cleverness. Mr. Bancroft is to be congratulated on his very successful embodiment of a lanky, horsey, insolvent "swell," chuckle-headed to the verge of idiocy in all matters that don't immediately affect his own interests, and curiously cunning wherever they are concerned. Mr. Bancroft has, with Mr. Boucicault's assistance, given us an entirely new type of "swell." Mr. Montague played Dick Hartley—a terribly commonplace stage lover—in a quiet, gentlemanly manner, but he had no opportunity of distinguishing himself. Lady Selina Raffeticket, the scheming widow, found an admirable representative in Mrs. Leigh Murray. Mr. Blakeley played Sir Abel Hotspur in a manner which would probably drive a provincial audience into ecstasies of delight, but which was wholly unappreciated by the particularly critical assembly to whom it was presented last Saturday. Doody, his impudent servant, was well played by Mr. Reynolds; and Mr. Montgomery personified a homeopathic doctor with success. The other doctors should all be cut out; the words that are put into their mouths are excellent to read, but they go for nothing as they are spoken by the gentlemen to whom they are intrusted. The first and last scenes are admirably painted; the intermediate scenes might be better.

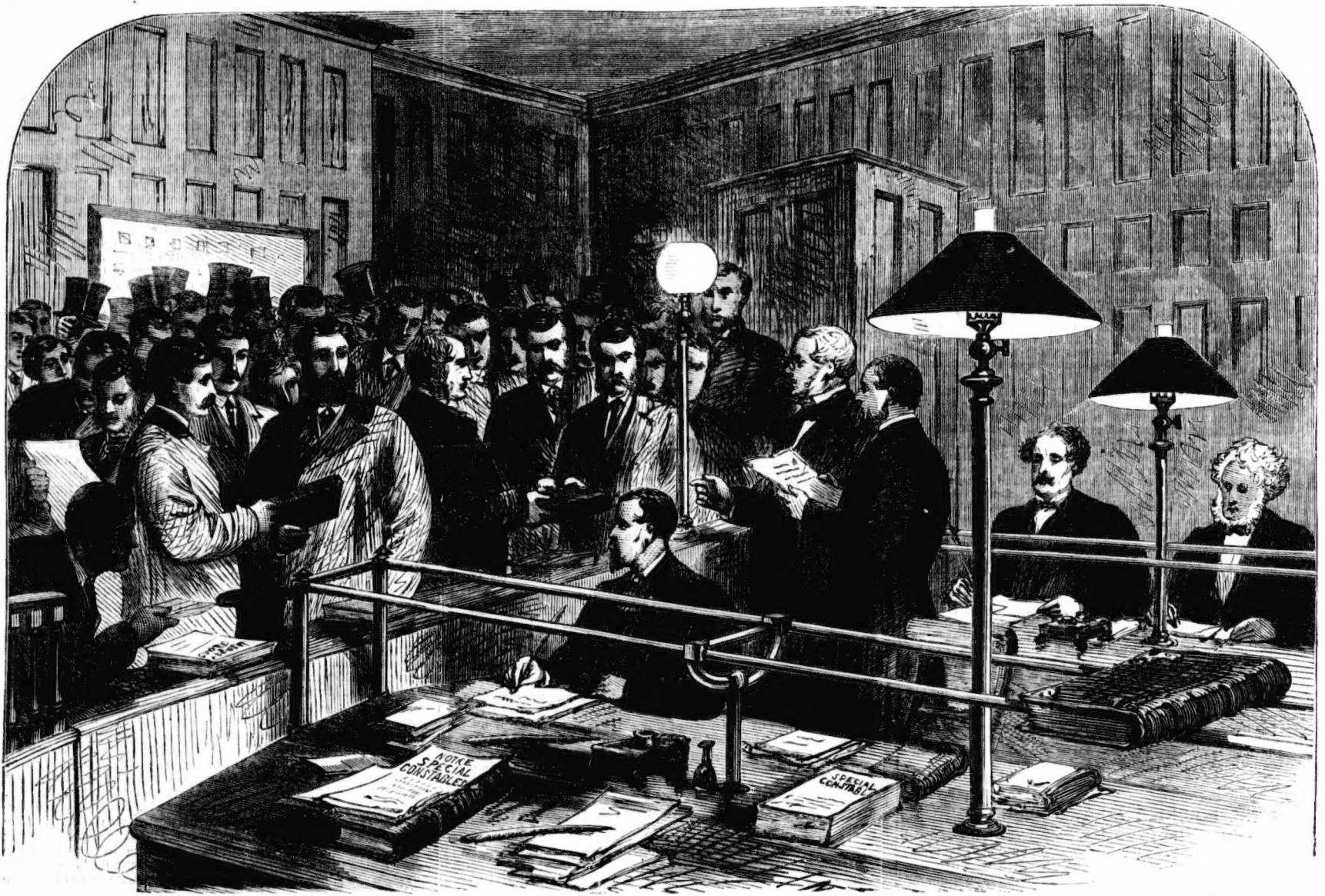
Mr. Burnand's comedy, "Humbug," was produced last week at the NEW ROYALTY, *vice* "Meg's Diversion," played out. I must confess at once that I was wholly unable to make head or tail of the story. The curtain fell at a certain stage of the piece; but why it should have fallen when it did, why it did not fall half an hour later, or (better still) why it did not fall an hour sooner, or (better even than that) why it ever rose at all, I don't know. At the conclusion of the piece the story, such as it was, was rather more involved than at any other stage of its development; and, beyond the discovery that all the male characters were "humbugs" (a fact that was perfectly clear to me from the moment of their first appearance), nothing whatever appeared to have been satisfactorily determined. The stage is crowded in the first act with characters who promise to develop into something; but they appear and disappear like November meteors, and leave no sign behind. The piece is not satisfactorily cast. Miss Oliver has only three artists in her company who are qualified to touch comedy—herself, Mr. Dewar, and Miss Carlotta Addison. Miss Oliver is not included in the cast, while Mr. Dewar and Miss Addison play comparatively insignificant parts. "Humbug" does not deserve unqualified condemnation. It is exceedingly well written in parts, and some of the situations are finely conceived; notably the one in which a vulgar old millionaire is sitting for his portrait with a necessary smile on his face while the most disagreeable allusions are being made to his early career as a shoeblack. But the story is so hopelessly confused that it is impossible to anticipate anything like a success for the piece. It is well acted by Mr. Dewar, and remarkably well by Miss Carlotta Addison. Miss Addison has a very small and a very bad part to play; but everything she has to say or do is said and done with so much artistic finish that the part assumes a prominence which the author probably did not anticipate for it. Miss Addison is a genuine actress of comedy in its higher departments. Mr. Day represented a fond artist with credit, and Mr. Fairfield played a moony old peer very meritoriously. His performance was not quite perfect, but it aimed at originality, and, if his shot did not quite hit the mark, it did not go very far wide of it. Of the other noblemen and gentlemen in the piece, the less said the better. The scenery was not up to Mr. Cuthbert's usual mark.

All about the pantomimes next week.

Last Saturday evening I attended the rehearsal of the Christmas novelties at the POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION. Professor Pepper has a new optical illusion and lecture on the subject of "Pretended Manifestations from the Spirit World," wherein his coadjutor, Mr. Tobin, and a large table are made to stand in mid-air without any visible agency. In the course of the evening a young lady, Mlle. Cavalho, gave a ventriloquial sketch; Mr. C. J. Plamper read Tennyson's "Lady Clare;" and Mr. J. Millard recited "The Charge of the Light Brigade." When Mr. Damer Cape's new musical entertainment, "The Babes in the Wood," is in working order (which it probably is by this time) it will be a great attraction, and the young folks ought to enjoy it. On Saturday it was not played in its entirety owing to the lateness of the hour, twelve o'clock having arrived before the performance was concluded.

At the ALHAMBRA some grand new ballet effects have been produced, which, I hear—for I have not been to see them—are as gorgeous and effective as Alhambra ballets always are.

A DRUNKARD'S END.—On Sunday morning last the house No. 7, 16½ Bank-street, Blackburn, occupied by Mr. John Duckworth, aged sixty-eight, a looper in a cotton-mill, and his wife, was discovered to be on fire by the policeman on that beat. An alarm was immediately given, and on the house being entered fire was observed to be dropping from the ceiling. On going up stairs into the bed-room, the remains of Duckworth were found on the floor. Portions of his legs and arms were burnt away, the bones protruding, and the body was reduced to a shrivelled and blackened mass, totally unrecognisable. Near the deceased was found the body of his favourite dog, which had kept by its unworthy master to the end; its legs had been burnt away. The furniture in the room was quite destroyed, and a large hole had been burnt through the ceiling. The fire was got under in about an hour. It seems that the deceased had for a long time been in the habit of getting intoxicated on Saturday nights, and when in that condition he was so violent that his wife was accustomed to leave him till the following morning. Deceased came home drunk about six o'clock on Saturday night last, and at eleven again went out, and obtained more beer at a neighbouring inn. His wife left in the mean time to pass the night at her son-in-law's. When deceased came back he "punched" the door open, and appears to have gone to bed without closing it. From that time he was not seen alive again. It was his custom to smoke in bed, and he appears to have fallen a victim to this and his intemperate habits. On each of the two previous days a man died from excessive drinking in Blackburn.



SWEARING IN SPECIAL CONSTABLES AT GUILDHALL.

DECORATING THE CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS.

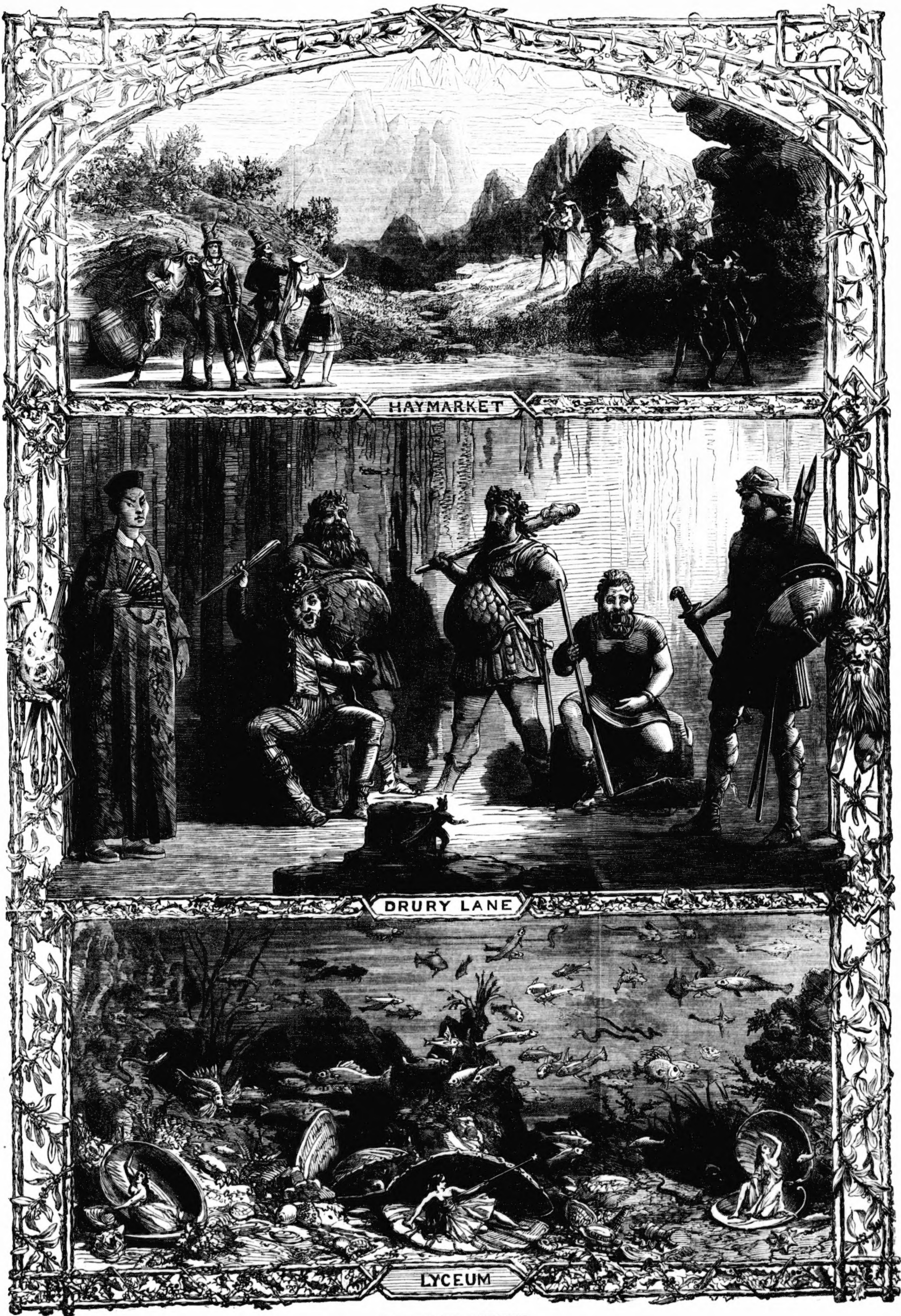
We have already said a little in our last Number about the growth of the mistletoe in the Worcestershire lanes, and our illustration this week represents the Christmas decorations of one of those primitive little churches over the border in Wales, where ancient customs are still preserved. Not that mistletoe is used among the greenery which makes an arbour of the sacred porch and glistens in the aisles; for mistletoe is Druidical, so that it cannot be referred, as some of our Christmas customs seem to be, to the saturnalia of the Romans, which was altered to a Christmas festival

in the wise way of the old Fathers, who utilised and adopted, instead of altogether destroying, the harmless part of pagan ceremonies. The favourite plants for church decoration at Christmas are holly, bay, rosemary, and laurel. Ivy is sometimes considered objectionable from its associations, having anciently been sacred to Bacchus and employed largely in the orgies celebrated in honour of the god of wine. Cypress is not often used, because of its funeral character. Only one exception to the exclusion of mistletoe is mentioned by Dr. Stukely, who says that it was at one time customary to carry a branch of mistletoe in procession to the high

altar of York Cathedral, and thereafter proclaim a general indulgence and pardon of sins at the gates of the city. It is pretty certain, however, that the learned doctor confuses the burlesques of the Boy Bishops, or Lords of Misrule, with an ecclesiastical custom. One can very well understand how such a profane travesty might be perpetrated by the licensed revellers of those days; but there is no evidence that any such procession or practice was a part of the recognised service of the cathedral. The decorations of Christmas remain in the churches till the end of January; but, according to the ecclesiastical canons, they must all be cleared away by Feb. 2



PREPARATIONS FOR DECORATING A WELSH CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS.



(Candlemas Day). The same rule holds good with respect to the boughs hung up in private houses; and it is considered extremely unlucky to permit them to remain after Candlemas. Herrick, in one of his best-known poems, alludes to this old superstition:—

Down with the rosemary, and so
Down with the bales and mistletoe;
Down with the holly, ivy, all
Wherewith ye dress the Christmas hall;
That so the superstitious find
No one least branch there left behind;
For look, how many leaves there be
Neglected there—maids, trust to me—
So many goblins you shall see.

SPECIAL CONSTABLES.

THE final instructions for the guidance of special constables and their officers were issued last Saturday, through the medium of the police, by Lieut.-Colonel C. B. Ewart, R.E., the officer appointed by the Home Department to arrange the organisation of the force. The scheme is shortly as follows:—A police station in each parish is selected as the head-quarters of the division of special constables of that parish. Every other station is a rallying point. In fact, the police stations afford a ready means of placing the special constables in direct communication with the police force. Supposing an alarm to be given, and an order issued to call out the special constables of a parish, the police inspector or superintendent at the head-quarters station has means at his disposal for immediately calling together the whole force of constables. No mistake can arise as to where each constable has to go, as he is to be furnished with a card directing him to hurry to a specified rallying point, where he will meet with his officer prepared to give him his necessary orders. The arduous of the constables of a parish will be tested in case of need by the alacrity with which they attend to the summons of the police inspectors, and, judging from the earnest manner in which the movement has been taken up, and the fact that numerous officers of high military rank have consented to act as superintendents, there can be little doubt that the services of the special constables will be found available at any time or place where they may be needed. The number of constables already sworn in may be estimated at about 10,000, and that number will probably be doubled in the course of a few days. The following are the instructions issued:—

INSTRUCTIONS TO SPECIAL CONSTABLES.

A police station in each parish will be selected as the head-quarters of the special constables, and such station, with the other police stations in the parish, will be the rallying points.

Other places may be selected as outlying rallying points; but any place so selected will be subordinate to some police station in the parish to which it is considered as attached.

The special constables of each parish are recommended to elect officers, to be called superintendents and deputy superintendents.

The number of officers will be determined by the number of rallying points in each parish.

There must be a superintendent and deputy superintendent for each head-quarter station of a parish, and a deputy superintendent for every other rallying point.

Any number of assistant superintendents may be elected to take charge of outlying rallying points.

In the selection of officers the special constables are recommended to choose by preference, naval, military, militia, or volunteer officers, and especially to select men who can be readily summoned, and who have time at their disposal.

The special constables will in no case appear in uniform, but they may march and act in military formation, and are recommended, when on duty, to wear some distinguishing mark on the arm or attached to the hat, by which they may be known at night and recognised as on duty.

A staff or short stout stick should be carried by every constable when on duty.

Special constables must strictly obey the orders of their officers.

The superintendents are recommended, when the constables under their direction are required to do duty as patrols, to allow on no occasion less than two in number to patrol alone, to keep their patrols within call of each other and, as far as possible, within easy reach of assistance from a supporting picket.

Special constables will be liable to be summoned on the occasion of any alarm. They will for this purpose leave their addresses at the rallying point to which they are attached, and when summoned, will repair with the utmost speed to that point.

The mode of summoning special constables will be arranged between their officers and the police.

The officers of special constables should seek instruction from the regular police in the details of their duties, and convey the same to the men under their direction.

The following are the legal powers and duties of constables for suppressing and preventing riots and disturbances of the peace:—

Every constable is called upon by the common law to do all that in him lies for the suppression of riot, and each has his authority to command all other subjects of the Queen to assist him in that undertaking.

In cases of breaches of the peace—such as riots, affrays, assaults, and the like—committed within the view of the constable, he should immediately interfere (first giving notice of his office, if he be not already known), separate the combatants, and prevent others from joining in the affray. If the riot, &c., be of a serious nature, or if the offenders do not immediately desist, he should take them into custody, securing also the principal instigators of the tumult, and doing everything in his power to restore quiet.

He may arrest anyone assaulting or opposing him in the execution of his duty.

When a breach of the peace is likely to take place, or when persons are openly preparing to fight, the constable should take the parties concerned into custody.

If a party threaten another with immediate personal violence, or offer to strike, the constable should interfere and prevent a breach of the peace. If one draw a weapon upon another, attempting to strike, the constable should take him into custody.

It is provided by law that every special constable shall have, exercise, and enjoy, not only within the parish or place for which he shall have been appointed, but also throughout the entire county for which the magistrate who appointed him is justice of the peace, all such powers, authorities, and advantages, and be liable to all such duties and responsibilities, as any constable within his constabulary by virtue of the common law or by any statute or statutes.

The process of swearing-in special constables has been going on vigorously at the vestry-rooms, police stations, and other places appointed for the purpose all over London for the last eight or ten days. The process is shown in our Engraving as in operation at the Guildhall, where the Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir Robert Carden, Alderman Sir William Rose, and Mr. Oke (the chief clerk at the Mansion House) presided. The volunteers for this duty were chiefly young men employed in public departments and in the large warehouses in the City, and many other classes of citizens. The oath was administered to them by Mr. Oke in batches of six at a time.

THE PANTOMIMES.

HAYMARKET.

AN innovation upon immemorial London practice was made at this theatre on Tuesday evening, the new Christmas entertainment being then produced in anticipation of the usual Boxing-Night revel. The amusement provided as Mr. Buckstone's compliment of the season is a burlesque paraphrase of Mr. Planché's "The Brigand." In giving "An Utter Per-vention of The Brigand; or, New Lines to an Old Bandit," Mr. A. Beckett has made no attempt at reconstruction; but he has successfully avoided a too minute adherence to the dialogue of the original piece. His brigand is played by Mr. Compton, and that gentleman has the outlines of a character which a little co-operation between author and actor might have made exceedingly effective. Massaroni retains the wishfulness to relinquish brigandage which characterises him in Mr. Planché's play, but it arises from pusillanimity; and a contrast, the idea of which is very humorous, is exhibited between Massaroni's manner during certain frank colloquies, and even during conversations with his bold and dashing wife, and that which he assumes when obliged to resume his daily routine of bombast and braggadocio, as leader of the brigand band. Mr. Compton, however, never cares to bestow upon burlesque that attention and original thought which distinguish his performances in other lines, and what enjoyment is to be got out of his brigand—and that enjoyment is considerable—results entirely from that uniform unforced drollery of manner which, in common with a few other veterans, Mr. Compton can always depend upon to give him a foremost place

in any piece the prime object of which is the moving to mirth. Next to Mr. Compton in importance comes Miss Ione Burke, who has not before had so good an opportunity of exhibiting her powers as the part of the brigand's wife affords her. She sings with great spirit a selection of music chiefly from "The Grand Duchess," and acts throughout with equal zeal and taste. Moreover, she presents a most attractive appearance, as one of those heroines described by the author,

Whose only object 's to dress up in satin,
And go in for revenge and Latin.

Mr. Rogers plays the part of Prince Bianchi, Governor of Rome, who is declared in the bill to be an "egotist and a penny-a-liner, supposed to have escaped from an early number of the *London Journal*." His function in the burlesque is a stale one—that of constantly beginning a tale of honour, which as constantly is stopped by the rest of the characters. Mr. Rogers throws much humour into the part. Mr. Kendal entirely eclipses some of his more ambitious performances by a sensible and business-like rendering of the part of Albert; while Miss Fanny Wright and Miss Dalton play the roles of Theodore, the artist, and Ottavia, the Prince's niece, with plenty of ability and, where it is most wanted in the lady's part, with much grace. Mr. O'Connor and his assistants have provided two excellent scenes. The first represents the brigands' mountain haunt, and the second the Prince's banqueting-hall. Both are elaborate and effective, and the latter is particularly grand, while its colouring is remote from everything garish or obtrusive. In the course of the burlesque there are several dances. That which received most applause was one in which brigands and brigandesses cut some highly characteristic capers. The author's writing varies, but in most parts is sufficiently telling. Mr. A. Beckett is worst in his puns and best in his allusions to current events. The Prince exclaims,

And thus they treat remorse that will not slumber?

Whereupon Albert asks,

Why don't you send it to a Christmas number?

In one place there are a number of lines relegating some wished-for event to a period equivalent to the Greek Kalends, and here several hits are made. The thing is to happen

When oysters without ruin can be had,

or

When Leicester-square's a paradise on earth,

or

When trashy novels cease to see the light,

And Babington has proved that black is white.

Like other light *littérateurs*, Mr. A. Beckett seems to suffer from Beales on the brain, and the president of the Reform League and his "M.A." come in for a good deal of mild badinage. The only pun that struck us was in the exclamation of one of the brigands, "Our terms are gash." Many of the others are exceedingly old and weak.

DRURY LANE.

This house is supplied, according to old-established custom, by Mr. E. L. Blanchard, who has thrown into a dramatic and spectacular form a famous legend, the traditional features of which are faithfully preserved in the pantomimic extravaganza, here called "Faw-Fee-Fo-Fum; or, Harlequin Jack the Giant-Killer." The contest between the great people and the small is, of course, decided in favour of the latter, who at Christmas time have been long acknowledged to reign supreme. Whilst seeking the four-leaved shamrock among the basaltic columns of the Giant's Causeway, the Irish elves, known as Leprechauns, overhear a plot among the giants to possess themselves of the earth. Hastening with the intelligence to the fairies who protect the fruits, a powerful league is formed to oppose the invaders, and, on the advice of the Water Sprite, Ondine, Jack, a mysterious youth, living at a fishing village on the Cornish coast, is selected to be their champion, as "only a mortal can a mortal kill." Jack first slays the single-headed Giant Cormoran, next successfully encounters the double-headed monster Blunderbore, and, finally, overcomes the more terrible three-headed Giant Faw-Fee-Fo-Fum, discovering in the ruins of the castle the sprig of four-leaved shamrock, which enables the possessor to diffuse happiness over all the world. Miss Poole, who for this special occasion increases the strength of the cast, represents Ondine, and sings a new song expressly composed for her by Mr. J. H. Tully. Jack is played by Mr. Joseph Irving; and Pigwiggins, the chief of the "Cornish drolls," by Master Percy Roselle. Miss Kate Harlequin is the Fairy Nectarine, and Miss Edith Stuart the Duke of Cornwall's daughter, Adalgitha, afterwards the bride of Jack. The new scenery, painted by Mr. William Beverley, is even on a more extensive scale than usual, whilst some singularly novel effects are introduced. Mr. J. H. Tully has arranged the music, Mr. Cormack the grand ballet and complicated pantomimic action, and the celebrated Dykewynkyn has devised the masks and accessories. The harlequinade is supported by Mr. Harry Boleno and Mr. Charles Lauri as Clowns, with the diminutive "Tom Dot" as juvenile Clown; Mr. Cormack and Mr. S. Saville as Harlequins, Mdlle. Marion and Mdlle. Lauri as Columbines, Messrs. Barnes and Morris as Pantaloons, and Mr. Sydney and Signor Zerlini as Sprites. The "comic scenes" are of a more novel nature than ordinary, and the services have been secured of a very clever corps of youthful actors and pantomimists. The stage arrangements are under the experienced direction of Mr. Edward Stirling.

LYCEUM.

This theatre, passing under the management of Mr. E. T. Smith, has a Christmas pantomime once again, after a long interval. The manager, mindful of the good fortune which attended similar productions at Drury Lane during his lesseeship, has evidently spared no trouble or expense in a piece likely to be a successful inauguration of his first season. The multitude of its attractions would seem to be foreshadowed in the title, for the utterance of which the reader is advised to well inflate his lungs beforehand—"Harlequin Cock Robin and Jenny Wren; or, Fortunatus and the Water of Life, the Three Bears, the Three Wishes, and the Little Man who Wooded the Little Maid." The object has evidently been to comprise as many familiar stories as possible in the introductory portion, and so intricate is the maze through which we should have to conduct the reader to lead him to a clear view of the good and bad fortune attending the virtuous and vicious personages who undergo so many transmutations that we prefer leaving him to the enjoyment of his surprise on visiting the theatre, when he may follow out the clue for himself. We may hint, however, that the author, Mr. W. S. Gilbert, first disposes of the story of Cock Robin, next transforms the three prominent birds in the old nursery rhyme into the three bears, and afterwards shows us how the Little Man and the Little Maid receive more gifts from the Fairy Fortune, after Gaffer and Gammer Grey (the Brothers Marshall) have made a reckless use of the three wishes which they enjoy from the possession of a magic ring. The noxious demon Minima is, of course, finally destroyed by Fresh Air, the beneficent agent; and the transformation, which is a brilliant scene of development, by Mr. James Gates, the scenic artist, leads to a highly hilarious harlequinade. The company is a strong one, and especially fortunate in the possession of a number of feminine celebrities in the department of burlesque. The principal characters in the opening are sustained by Miss Caroline Parkes, Miss Furtado, Miss Goodall, Miss Nelly Burton, Miss Sidney, Miss Armstrong, &c.; Mr. H. Thompson, Mr. Templeton, Mr. Craddock, and Mr. J. Francis. The pantomimic company is exceedingly numerous, comprising Mr. A. Forrest as Clown (his first appearance in England these six years), with his two sons, and Mr. E. Lauri as additional Clown. The Harlequin is Mr. Waite, and Harlequin à la Watteau, Miss Esther Austin. Pantaloons are Mr. J. Beckingham and Mr. T. Lovell; the Columbines, the Misses Grosvenor and Page; Sprites, the Dusoni Family; Exquisites, the Brothers Marshall; and besides a French company of terpsichorean artists, their first appearance in England, a lilliputian company is announced. In the opening the famous Espinosa appears. The principal dancers of the ballet are Mdlle. Sophie and Miss Lillie Lee, and Mr. Chapin's juvenile corps de ballet is added to the corps of coryphées. Mr. W.

H. Montgomery is the arranger of the music. Mr. Milano devises the dances, Mr. H. Adams and Mr. Brunton have prepared the properties, and the dresses are supplied by M. Morin, costumier to the Parisian theatres, and Mr. Dobson, and Mrs. Harris.

MR. JOHN BRIGHT AT ROCHDALE.

MR. JOHN BRIGHT, M.P., spoke on Monday night at a meeting held at Rochdale to congratulate his brother on the success of his contest at Manchester. In a review of the events which brought about the passing of the Reform Act, Mr. Bright expressed a great deal of pity for the Tories—that unfortunate party—not the leaders, they make it profitable enough; they know very well what they are doing; "they (said Mr. Bright), many of them, understand these questions just as well as we understand them; but I speak of the Tory party in the country, who are the pawns and the chessmen with which these leaders play their game." Mr. Bright then went on to say:—

I must say I feel for them a great commiseration, for it seems to me that their political life must be one unvarying cup of sorrow and disappointment, and it seems as if the last drop of it were never to be taken. There is always something more left which afterwards they have to swallow. Mr. Mill, the eminent member for Westminster, says the Tory party are naturally the stupid party. Well, that I believe, is not denied by any intelligent man among Tories. Unless they are so stupid that they cannot easily feel, the retrospect must be to them exceedingly humiliating; and the future, or their endeavours to look into it, must be equally gloomy; but this last humiliation appears to me to be almost the deepest of all. Lord Derby has been considered more than any other man to be relied on. "Among the faithful, faithful only he." Everybody has not been of that opinion, even among the Tories, for I recollect once by an accident spending an evening at a Welsh watering place, in company with the proprietor of an out-and-out Tory journal published in this country, and he told me he did not think much of Lord Derby. He used a term which will be understood by a good many here. He did not think Lord Derby was thorough-bred as a Tory; he was only a "broken-hair'd un." My friend evidently knew rather more about Lord Derby than those who followed him. [As to the Reform Act, Mr. Bright maintains that it is impossible to give a more thoroughly democratic bill as regards the boroughs of England and Wales than that which has been passed, and that the suffrage which has been permitted to be passed by the Government of Lord Derby is as democratic as if he had enacted that portion referring to the suffrage contained in the People's Charter. A like democratic revolution Mr. Bright expects in the counties before long.] "There only requires two things to be done to give us a really democratic Parliament. The one is that the distribution of seats should be in some degree in proportion to the population, and that every voter should be permitted by the shelter and the machinery of the ballot to vote according to his own honest intentions. When that is done—and I think the ballot is not a very long way off—I expect another very important thing in the distribution of seats will be seen to at no great distance. When that is done, then I say we shall have a democratic and a popular House of Commons; and whether the legislation and administration of the country be wise or foolish will depend upon the wisdom or the folly of the great body of the people." [Lord Derby, Mr. Bright considers, has brought this state of things about, but only indirectly; "he has held the reins of office while in the confusion of parties the thing has been done, and he has done it rather than surrender office."] Mr. Bright, saying little about the late Fenian outrages, declined to discuss Irish grievances or their remedies, but he said:—

"I may be allowed to say with regard to them that I entirely disagree with those who, when any crisis or trouble arises, say that you must first of all preserve order, you must put down disloyalty and disobedience to the law, you must assert the supremacy of the Government, and then consider the grievances that are complained of. Generally, after having asserted the supremacy of the law, and having made what they call peace under the terms of the law, the grievances are forgotten, and there is no considering of them. This has been the case in Ireland for 200 years. The great preserver there has been the gallows and the gibbet." [Mr. Bright defined his bearings to point to any good ever effected for Ireland by Mr. O'Connell's peaceable demonstrations.] "Nothing has been done in Ireland except under the influence of terror. In such a state of things what was more natural or inevitable than that a certain portion of the people, not reasoning well stimulated by an impassioned feeling of the wrongs done to their country, should descend into the ranks, the odious and criminal ranks, of dark conspiracy? If, last year, Parliament had refused to extend the franchise, if all our great meetings had been held in vain, if the popular voice had risen so that all the world should hear it, but the deaf members of the Imperial Legislature, you would have had in England, I will not say a dark and a criminal conspiracy, but you would have had men who would gradually have worked their way amongst the people, and would have instructed them in principles and in practices which are near akin to the worst form of criminal conspiracy." As to the future Mr. Bright has no confidence in the Tories. "There is no part of the United Kingdom where the principles of the Tory party have had such full and perfect exhibition as they have had in Ireland. They have had an Established Church to their heart's content; they have usurped the ecclesiastical revenues of the whole nation and given it to a small section whose whole number does not much exceed the population of Manchester and Salford; they have had nearly all the land in the hands of great proprietors; nearly all the magistracies have been chosen from these landowners and the Protestant party; they have had any amount of soldiery and police; there is not a single thing that the most obtuse and bigoted Tory can desire which has not been had in the most full and complete shape in Ireland; but unfortunately for the Tories their only specific when danger arises is terror. They have no security, and don't comprehend any for allegiance but that which consists in powerlessness to rebel, and the consequence is now that I fear they will do as in time past. They will adopt repressive measures, and often of the most stringent character, with a severe administration of the law, calling on the people of England to support them in all that is severe. I could make some excuse for a severe administration of the law if I saw that they would rapidly and earnestly advance measures likely to give satisfaction to a disloyal people. At present I see nothing of the kind. Perhaps when Parliament opens we may see something of it; but I venture to say that there is no man in Ireland who is a greater traitor to the Queen and the laws of his country than a Minister who continues to hold office, and is at the same time not enlightened enough, who has not moral courage enough, to recommend to the Crown and propose to Parliament measures of justice for the pacification of Ireland. Do not let me be understood as saying that, if there were a change of Government, this question would be grappled with with the force which is necessary. There are among the leading men of the Whig party men who have fair sentiments with regard to Ireland, but who, whenever they treat of this question, are afraid of dealing with it as it must be dealt with, and therefore it might be necessary, even if there were a change of Government, supposing that change of Government were such as people generally expect, to stimulate with strong language and by a strong expression of public opinion the timid councils of those who might succeed the present Government."

GEOGRAPHICAL DISCOVERY.—Among other trifling incidents of news, thrust out of sight by the absorbing excitement of Fenianism, may be noticed the discovery of "a new continent." The season has been a very open one all about the Arctic Circle, and some American Pacific whalers, pushing further and further northward in the open water, have come as high as to 73° degs. of north latitude. Here they sighted a perfectly unknown line of coast, with lofty mountains in the interior, and near the sea a lowland undercliff, or "concan," of green country. The discoverers cruised for fifteen days along the rim of this strange Arctic world without perceiving any break in its continuity. They did not land, and therefore we are unable to say whether or not Mr. Lowe's Hyperboreans—who live behind the north wind—are not really in possession, exercising the rights of citizenship in a manner to reconcile even the right hon. gentleman to household or wigwam suffrage. Here is a chance for Mr. Seward, whose earth-hunger of late has been so remarkable. Let him send an expedition and annex this chilly continent. It is cheek by jowl with his new acquisition of Alaska, and a great deal more promising than unlucky little St. Thomas. For anything we know to the contrary, there may be an easy road from the confines of this Hyperborea to the top of the globe; and the American Bismarck may hoist the stars and stripes, if he likes, on the North Pole itself.—*Telegraph*.

THE RECORDS OF EXETER.—Exeter has set a good example to other cities. By the direction of the Mayor and Corporation, the municipal archives are in process of being dug out of their hiding-places in nooks and recesses of the old Guildhall and arranged and classified, after the neglect of centuries. The whole results of the investigation promise to be very curious and interesting, though many manuscripts have been destroyed by dust and worms. The collection of municipal records is singularly perfect, and reaches back, in an almost unbroken series, to the reign of Henry III., A.D. 1263. From 1393 we have regular accounts of receipts and disbursements by the city authorities. Among the most curious papers are the Customs rolls, showing what duties were levied in the port, &c. The collection of Royal charters is important; there is one of Henry II.'s and one of Richard I.'s time. These early charters are on the narrowest strips of parchment, showing how costly the material was when the manufacture was in its infancy. But the calligraphy of the earlier records is exquisitely fine, and the durability of the ink used is remarkable, the blackest being that of Edward I.'s time. Other documents consist of inventories of cathedral and church ornaments, vestments, &c., Royal proclamations and letters, orders in council concerning the cattle plague of 1749, certificates, title-deeds, &c.; and there are other records, interesting not only in a legal and antiquarian but also in a literary point of view. A catalogue of the whole collection is in course of preparation.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

PARIS GOSSIP.

BEYOND wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy new year, as in the old days when the world's selfishness astonished us, I have little to tell you. Of course, the Deputies—the men with *mandats*—continue to discuss the Army Organisation Bill. Some good speeches have been made, but the bulk of the discussion has been beside the mark. Able, learned, ingenious, eloquent beyond the eloquence of most other Parliaments, the debates in the legislative body present a character of restraint which is painful.

When Ajax tries some rock's huge weight to throw,
The line, too, labours, and the verse moves slow.

So is it in the French Assembly. You can see dimly what is in the minds of the orators—those who support the Government as well as the Opposition speakers—and it impresses you with the feeling that they are restrained from saying what they otherwise would. Splendid capacities for public speech thus hampered are, so far, lost.

The bill will, without doubt, be carried. There is not a man of practical common-sense in the Opposition; and so the Ministers have the whole thing their own way. There exists, indeed, no Opposition, in the English sense of the word. Jules Simon, Jules Favre, Emile Olivier, M. Garnier-Pagès, M. Glais-Bizoin, and the rest, are so many Hals o' the Wynd fighting each for his own hand; and of course they are put down in the easiest way imaginable. The bill will be passed without difficulty; and I declare to you that, were I a Frenchman—which, thank God, I am not—I would without hesitation vote in favour of it.

Marshal Niel, the Minister of War, was exceedingly frank in his statement. Never were the troops better disciplined, he said; never were the fortresses better supplied and provisioned; never was France more prepared for war—but all these preparations have been made with the sincere and honest desire to avoid war. *Credat Judæus.*

The Parisian world, however, wags on as usual. Although business is at a standstill, pleasure pursues its course. The opera masked balls have begun, with their whole train of dissipation and debauchery, and the midnight theatre and the midnight mass are in competition; while liberty is demanded, license prevails; and the sentences passed upon secret conspirators in the Palace of Justice contrasts finely with those pronounced by Ministerial speakers from the tribune of the Palais Bourbon. What would you have? It is a mad world, my masters, but nowhere so insensate as here.

Everybody is preparing, *contre cour*, to give a present to everybody else—presents and curses, that is it.

NEW-YEAR'S HYMN.

FAST the years of life are speeding,
Silently the moments fall;
Time by many marks is pleading,
Each new year renews his call.
Swiftly are his sands decreasing,
Age approaches calm and slow,
Youth's gay joys to please are ceasing:
All is fading here below.

Yonder in the calm seclusion
Of our Father's home above,
Free from sin and sin's pollution,
We shall dwell in light and love,
When the toils of life are over,
And Eternity's bright day
Things of Faith to us discover
In that region far away.

"Let me go," my soul is pleading—
"Let me go where Jesus is;
Where for me He's interceding;
There alone is joy and bliss."
Wait His time in faith and patience,
Work for Him while thou art here,
And at last shall angels bring thee
Where thou'lt spend a holy year.

JOHN CULLEN.

LORD BROUGHAM'S INCOME.—A Cannes journal the other day informed its readers that Lord Brougham's annual income amounts to £654,000 sterling. This statement drew from his Lordship a letter, in which he says:—"I have to request you to inform me from whom you learned so great an absurdity, and, without doubt, you will insert in your next number an explanation of a mistake which has provoked general laughter, and which procured for me on my return here a reception which I did not merit." The editor, commenting on this communication, says:—"If this announcement, which I borrowed from the *Monde* *Thermal*, did not appear to have moved Lord Brougham so greatly, I should feel pleasure in having been the echo of the inexactitude in question, and for these reasons, that I have elicited a letter from Lord Brougham for the benefit of my numerous readers, and a valuable autograph for myself."

THE OAKS COLLIERY.—After a lapse of more than twelve months, there is now some prospect of the Oaks Colliery being gradually cleared, and the remains of the men and boys, to the number of more than 200, brought to light. During the last few days a number of men have been able to enter the workings with airproof dresses, and put up sheeting at certain distances, so as to confine the air to the places where operations are being carried on with safety-lamps. The bottom has been cleared, and some thirty or forty yards of the south level penetrated. As the two shafts for some time past have acted in the ordinary way, there is every indication that no standing bed exists in the mine, so that the object so much desired—the recovery of the bodies—is likely to be now proceeded with as actively as possible.

FORESHORES.—Until this year the management of the rights and interests of the Crown in the shore and bed of the sea and of the tidal part of navigable rivers has been in the hands of the Department of Woods and Forests, along with the other Crown lands surrendered to the nation during the life of the Sovereign on the settlement of the Civil List. The annual reports of the department have stated from time to time the sales they have made of pieces of foreshore. By an Act passed last year—the Crown Lands Act—the management of this portion of the Crown property has been transferred to the Board of Trade; and a memorandum submitted by Mr. Farrer, the secretary, on the course to be adopted by the board in dealing with this property has been laid before the House of Commons. The doctrine propounded is that the Sovereign is of common right seized of the soil of the bottom of the sea and of the shore landwards up to the line of medium high tides. But in many places acts of private ownership are being done which continued for much less than the statutory sixty years are held to warrant a jury in presuming a grant from the Crown. Mr. Farrer proposes that the customs and coastguard officers be instructed to report all encroachments or acts of ownership, and the like. Some claims of ownership may be injurious to navigation or other public rights, and others may have little or no effect except as establishing a title adverse to that of the Crown; but it is desirable that they should be made known in order that the Board of Trade may judge whether or not it is desirable to take steps to prevent or qualify them. It is generally a question whether it is worth while to go to the expense of legal proceedings by "information" or indictment, for the Crown cannot bring an action of ejectment, and the action of trespass brought by the Crown has fallen into disuse. It is probable that sooner or later the Legislature will give more summary remedies than at present exist. The title of the Crown is not usually an absolute title to the part of the public, such as the soil; it is subject to various rights on the part of the public, such as rights of fishing and of navigation. The public right of bathing has been denied by a court of law; but the decision has been questioned by high authorities, and is considered doubtful. In a country like England, where every open space may be needed for the public health and enjoyment, and where facilities for navigation, fishing, boating, beaching, landing, and the shipping are of the highest importance, it is of great moment that the control of the public and of the Government over the bed of the sea and the strip of common which lies between land and open sea should be preserved. It is desirable, with a view to useful public works, that there should be power to grant a license or lease, at a small nominal rent, preserving the title of the Crown. The existing statutes relating to Crown property are framed to prevent sales and leases at less than the real value. If the Board of Trade are to act on a different principle, it may be desirable, if not necessary, to have the distinct sanction of Parliament. If the Transfer Bill of 1866 clauses were inserted, allowing the board to make sales or grant leases or licenses on such terms as they should think fit, where parts of the foreshore are required for harbours, docks, piers, or other works of public utility, and in other cases also, the board then certifying their reasons; but in the House of Lords these clauses were opposed by certain Scottish landed proprietors; and, in order to save the bill, at a late period of the Session the clauses were abandoned. It is considered that, as far as England is concerned, there would be no difficulty in getting the Act amended in this respect; but that with regard to Scotland it would be necessary either to come to terms with the Scotch proprietors or to ascertain by legal proceedings the exact nature and extent of the Crown's rights to the foreshore in Scotland, and then to propose legislation on that basis.

Literature.

The Life of Thomas Telford, Civil Engineer. With an Introductory History of Roads and Travelling in Great Britain. By SAMUEL SMILES, Author of "Self-Help," "Industrial Biography," &c. A new Edition. London: John Murray.

Mr. Smiles's "Lives of the Engineers" is a book which, we should suppose, is by this time pretty well known to the reading public; and from its pages the author has extracted his biography of Telford, and, prefixing to it an excellent "History of roads and travelling in Great Britain" from the earliest times of which we have records to the present day, has made a book at once most useful, instructive, and entertaining. Let the reader peruse this work in connection with the same author's *Lives of George and Robert Stephenson*, and he will, as Mr. Smiles remarks, be able to form an idea of the extraordinary progress that has been made in opening up the internal communication of this country during the last century. The descriptions of the author are illustrated and rendered still more vivid by excellent engravings, after authentic pictures, of incidents and scenes "on the road" in England and Scotland during those olden days which some people are in the habit of calling "good," and for the return of which they are foolish enough to sigh. Good, indeed! Just let anyone look at the pictures in this book and read Mr. Smiles's descriptions, and say if the times could have been "good" in which a man was unable to travel twenty miles from London without running the risk of being drowned in mud, bumped about till his bones ached (as Queen Elizabeth pathetically complained to a foreign Ambassador that hers did after a short journey), or beset by footpads and highwaymen. Thank goodness—and the engineers—that, grumble as we may at the blunders of railway officials, we live in better days than those! In his introductory treatise Mr. Smiles does not merely describe the bad state of the roads and the defective means of travelling that existed, but he gives us also a glimpse into the social condition of the people which mainly resulted therefrom; and we can bear testimony to his accuracy, for much that he describes we have seen existing in a not very remote district of North Britain, even within our own recollection. Perhaps not the least interesting portion of the introductory treatise is the chapter devoted to John Metcalf, the blind roadmaker, or "Blind Jack of Knaresborough," as he was commonly called. Metcalf seems to have been altogether a most remarkable person, for, notwithstanding his blindness, which resulted from an attack of smallpox when he was six years of age, he excelled in all athletic exercises, such as climbing, swimming, riding, wrestling, &c., and had, moreover, a quickness of intellect and readiness of resource which astonished his contemporaries and enabled him to overcome all obstacles in the way of his enterprises. As an illustration of these qualities, we will quote an anecdote of Metcalf's earlier days. Mr. Smiles says:—

Metcalf having thriven and saved money, bought and rode a horse of his own. He had a great affection for the animal, and when he called it would immediately answer him by neighing. The most surprising thing is that he was a good huntsman; and to follow the hounds was one of his greatest pleasures. He was as bold a rider as ever took the field. He trusted much, no doubt, to the sagacity of his horse; but he himself was apparently regardless of danger. The hunting adventures which are related of him, considering his blindness, seem altogether marvellous. He would also run his horse for the petty prizes or plates given at the "fests" in the neighbourhood, and he attended the races at York and other places, where he made bets with considerable skill, keeping well in his memory the winning and losing horses. After the races he would return to Knaresborough late at night, guiding others, who, but for him, could never have made out the way.

On one occasion he rode his horse in a match in Knaresborough Forest. The ground was marked out by posts, including a circle of a mile, and the race was three times round. Great odds were laid against the blind man, because of his supposed inability to keep the course. But his ingenuity was never at fault. He procured a number of dinner bells from the Harrogate inns and set men to ring them at the several posts. Their sound was enough to direct him during the race, and the blind man came in the winner! After the race was over, a gentleman who owned a notorious runaway horse came up and offered to lay a bet with Metcalf that he could not gallop the horse fifty yards and stop it within two hundred. Metcalf accepted the bet, with the condition that he might choose his ground. This was agreed to, but there was to be neither hedge nor wall in the distance. Metcalf forthwith proceeded to the neighbourhood of the large bog near the Harrogate Old Spa, and having placed a person on the line in which he proposed to ride, who was to sing a song to guide him by its sound, he mounted and rode straight into the bog, where he had the horse effectually stopped within the stipulated two hundred yards, stuck up to his saddle-girths in the mire. Metcalf scrambled out and claimed his wager, but it was with the greatest difficulty that the horse could be extricated.

We have said nothing of the "Life of Telford," because that portion of the work has already been a considerable time before the world, and, along with the other memoirs that originally accompanied it, has taken the place it merits in the foremost ranks of biography. It will, however, be welcome to many readers in its new form, and equally so whether they have read it before or now make acquaintance with it for the first time.

The Savage Club Papers. Edited by ANDREW HALLIDAY. London: Tinsley Brothers.

As some of our readers may not know much, or anything, about the Savage Club, it will not be amiss, before noticing the handsome volume before us, to state that the club in question is an association of gentlemen professionally connected with journalism and literature generally, the law, the drama, science, art, and other pursuits; that the club was named after that Richard Savage with whom Dr. Samuel Johnson was wont to consort in his earlier days; and that all the members are more or less distinguished in their several pursuits. Last year one of their number died, leaving relatives dependent upon him unprovided for; and, as one means of meeting the emergency, the "Savages" determined to issue a volume of contributions by the members, literary and artistic. The effort was attended with great and deserved success; and this has encouraged the editor, Mr. Halliday—himself a popular essayist and writer for the stage—to undertake another work of a similar kind, from the proceeds of which it is hoped that a fund will be formed to enable the club to relieve cases of distress that may come under the notice of its members; said fund to be permanently maintained by an annual publication of "Savage-Club Papers." Book-buyers, we are sure, will be much pleased to aid in carrying out so meritorious a scheme, and all the more so as, in purchasing the books issued by the club, they will be obtaining a series of works at once handsome, useful, and entertaining. The volume before us contains an excellent collection of short stories, poems, essays, dramatic fragments, pictures, &c. Some of the pictures are illustrative of the stories, and so forth, while others are independent artists' contributions. The illustrations have been admirably engraved by the Brothers Dalziel; the book is printed on fine toned paper, is most gorgeously bound, and is altogether one of the handsomest volumes that have come under our notice this season. Where there is so much general excellence, it is invidious to find fault; but, perhaps, we may be permitted, on behalf of a race greatly sinning on the score of redundancy of language, to suggest to Mr. John Hollingshead that even penny-a-liners, of whose style he gives an imitation, would scarcely be guilty of speaking of a man as "walking quickly with great rapidity away." The contents, get-up, and motive for publishing this volume are alike creditable to the hearts, the tastes, and the intellect of the members of the club with the uncounted name.

A Handbook of English Literature. I. Prose and Dramatic Writers. II. Poets. By WILLIAM GEORGE LARKINS, F.R.G.S., &c. London: Routledge and Sons.

Whilst admitting that Mr. Larkins's book will be found useful, we cannot help wondering that it was not made to be a little more so. It is in reality two books bound in one; and a man without knowledge of English literature might waste much labour over it, and still make many mistakes. The first volume, Prose and Dramatic Writers, is divided into two portions, with the various authors' names arranged chronologically. A man who does understand English literature will see at a glance how a bad system

works. Take Dryden, for instance. In the first place, he is briefly mentioned as a prose writer, because he ranks among the first poets; he wrote an "Essay on Dramatic Poesy," and "Prefaces and Dedications." Then, again, in the first volume, we hear of Dryden's dramas, and obtain a few biographical notes; and in the second volume the poems are mentioned, with some more biography, partly repetition. Under dramatists Goldsmith is not mentioned at all, and, as a prose writer, his "Citizen of the World" gets no notice. Addison seems to be unknown for his "Cato," Sheridan for his "Rivals," and a column could be filled up with a list of such omissions. Amongst many eccentricities, we find that Lord Dorset's "To all you ladies now on land," "written the night before a battle at sea, will live as long as the Anglo-Saxon element remains." What does it mean? Is the sea the "element," or is the "Anglo-Saxon" language intended? Mr. Larkins modestly gives a critical quotation when he finds something written which he thinks better than what he could write; but he very seldom mentions his authority, on account of want of space! And yet he can coolly say of Shelley, "Mr. Shaw thus sums up his characteristics"—and then follows half a page of "Shaw," which will probably be new to most readers. At least half a dozen writers should have been quoted before Shaw: Leigh Hunt, Byron, Hogg, Browning, Middleton, not forgetting the meddlesome Medwin. Altogether, the book wants more fusing and less refuse-ing. There is too much plan, and that a bad plan. The many introductory chapters to the periods of literature are sensible writing enough; but what has been delicately hinted above is sufficient for the bulk of the book. Any bookseller's "young man" could have compiled it speedily by sacrificing a few minutes of his dinner hour; or Messrs. Chambers's "Cyclopedia of English Literature" would have given Mr. Larkins a hundred times the information and saved him at least some of the blunders.

Miscellaneous Essays. Second Series. By the Rev. W. KIRKUS, LL.B. London: Longmans & Co.

We had occasion, about twelve months ago, to notice a volume of essays of which the book now before us is the second series, and we can heartily congratulate Mr. Kirkus on having given his readers the results of the maturer thought and the more condensed and striking style which comes to the thoughtful preacher who is also a conscientious and practised writer. Not that the first volume of this series was deficient in these qualifications, but the present volume is characterised by a clearness and force which, while they give the impression of hearing rather than reading, are none the less conclusive because they are not damaged by a too tedious dwelling upon the minor details in the processes of thought which too many essayists mistake for close reasoning. Some of these essays have already been printed, and have attracted considerable attention; especially those entitled "Model Sermons" and "Romanism, Anglicanism, and Evangelicalism Logically Identical," the latter of which was published in the *Fortnightly Review* in its best days.

ROUTLEDGE'S BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

The Story of Papa's Wise Dogs. Told and Illustrated by Himself. *The Little Oxleys: their Sayings and Doings.* By Mrs. W. DINZLEY BURTON. *Schnick Schnack; Trifles for the Little Ones.* Routledge's Coloured Scrap-book.

Mr. Bailey's book about "Wise Dogs" will fascinate children. It is a pretty family picture. The stories are told with the humour which children like; and the constant touches of Indian life, leopards, snakes, &c., give an important charm for the young. The stories, moreover, are true, and very different to many "surprising instinct" paragraphs in which our provincial contemporaries are wont to indulge. The dog pictures are well drawn.

"The Little Oxleys" begins—"I will tell you about some little children, if you like, who were sometimes naughty, and sometimes good. Their papa was a doctor, and they lived in the country." The little fortunes of these curious little specimens of good and evil—things which are not absolutely uncommon—are told in true nursery style. There is plenty about a nice old grandmamma, and a good-sized lump of plum-cake makes its appearance with pleasant and frequent ex libitum.

"Schnick Schnack" is a very pretty little book for children. It is evidently—as, indeed, the title indicates—a reproduction from the German, but the rhymes are well rendered; and the coloured engravings which abound in the book are nicely printed by Leighton Brothers, and are characterised by brilliancy of colouring, and as near an approximation to naturalness of tint as the difficult process of printing from wood blocks will permit. We have not this season seen a neater child's book, and our table is pretty well loaded with them just now.

The "Coloured Scrap-book" is a collection of engravings from a variety of sources, printed on stout paper, in most resplendent colours, and accompanied by letterpress explanations. There are plates illustrative of "The History of Joseph," the story of "Jack the Giant-killer," "Little Boy Blue," objects of natural history, fairy tales, &c. The book will make an excellent child's album, the leaves of which may be turned over by the little ones with never-ending interest—as long, that is, as they hold together; and then—why, of course, then a new book with different pictures must be bought.

DEAN AND SON'S BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

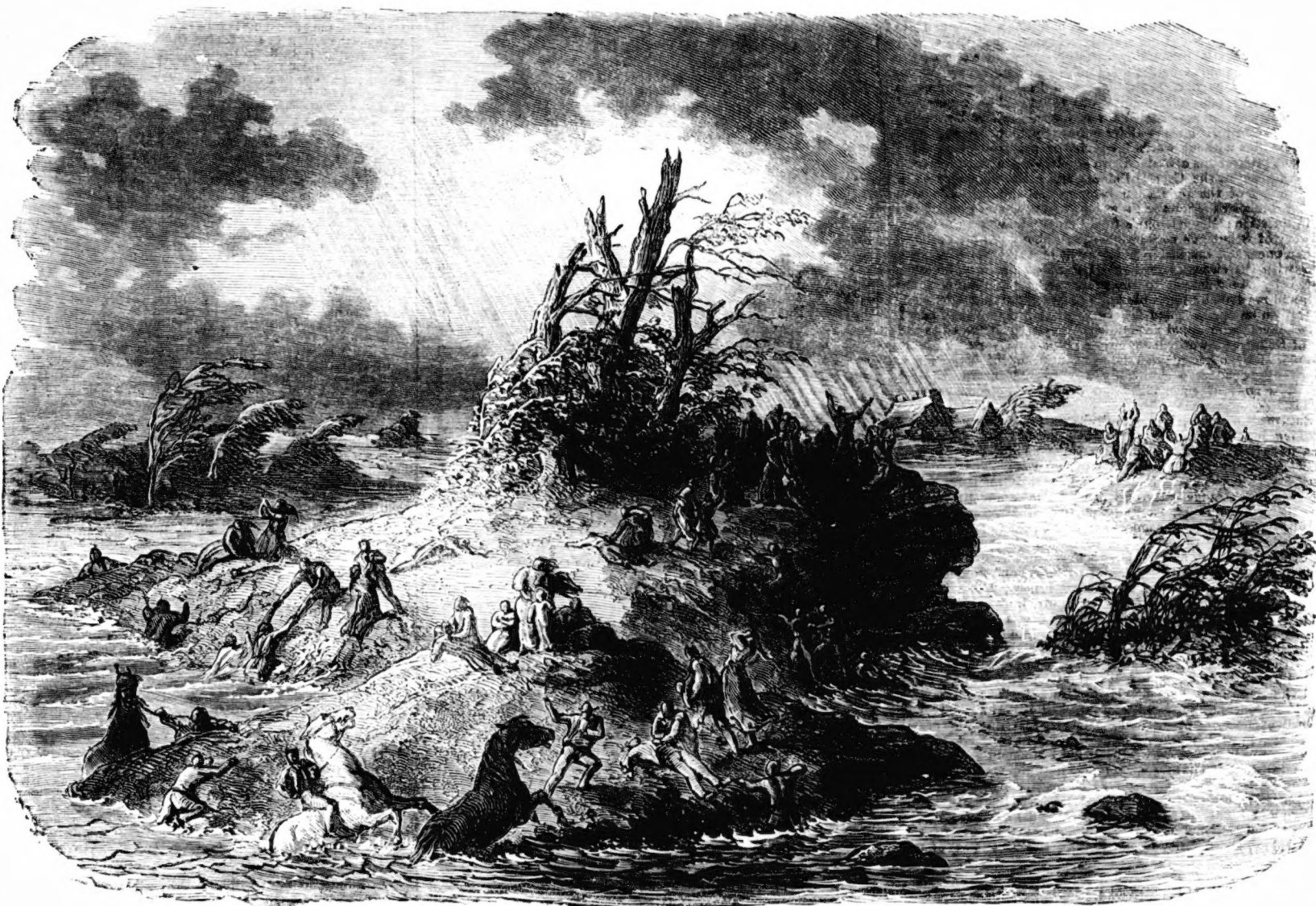
Messrs. Dean and Son have published a batch of books for children, of which it will be sufficient to mention the titles, with the remark that, as most of these toy-books are ingeniously contrived, it is a pity that they are not a little better executed. Perhaps they are good enough for tearing to pieces, however—a fate that is likely very speedily to overtake them. The books, we believe, are published at sixpence and one shilling each; but they may be had in "untearable cloth," if anybody cares to have them so, at a higher price. Among them are:—1, "Robinson Crusoe," a series of cut-out tableaux, accompanied by letterpress narrative; 2, "The Farmer and his Family," showing projecting figures representing the farmyard, its denizens, and appurtenances; 3, "The Unchangeable Dame," being the history of a certain Mrs. Hodge, whose husband was first a ploughman, then a soldier, then a grocer, then a mayor, and, lastly, a knight; but Mrs. H. never changed, for she was ever the same kindly, good-natured dame, whether wearing silk and satin or simple cotton—whether as plain Mrs. Hodge or as the lady of "Sir John," as her face, shown through a series of tableaux, sufficiently proves; 4, "Cinderella and the Little Glass Slipper," an illustrated play by Miss Corner and Alfred Crowskill; 5, "Dutch Tiles, or, Drolleries for a Chimney Nook," a collection of ludicrous Dutch pictures; 6 and 7, "Little Darling's Little Verses," and "Verses, the Simplest of the Simple, for the Youngest of the Young," by F. E. C. F.; 8, "Merry Multiplication," by Miss Corner, with "golden pictures to look at;" and 9, "Comic Illustrated Multiplication," by Buz and Fuz, the pictures to which last-named may be comic, but certainly are rather coarse. All these books, however, will, we dare say, be esteemed great prizes in the nursery, where high art is of infinitely less importance than bold effect; and that last is a feature by no means lacking in Messrs. Dean's productions.

THE QUANTITY OF SNOW which has recently fallen in the Alps has led to the precipitate descent of several avalanches on the Petit St. Bernard road. One of them overwhelmed two men, who were dug out dead.

THE O'CONNELL NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The sketch-model (8ft. high) for this important work, by Mr. J. H. Foley, R.A., to be erected in Dublin, has just been exhibited in that city, where, in addition to the unanimous approval of the committee, it was received with the warmest gratification by the public. The finished work, for which upwards of £10,000 have already been subscribed, will be above 40ft. in height, and executed in bronze and granite. It is a pyramidal in general outline. From a base, resembling the form of an ancient Irish cross, supported by four winged victories of Patriotism, Fidelity, Courage, and Eloquence, rises a pedestal bearing the arms of the four provinces, from which springs a substructure surrounded by numerous groups and figures in alto and bas relief of all ranks, assembled to hear Erin's proclamation of the liberties obtained for them by O'Connell, to whose statue surmounting the whole she gratefully points. The figure of Erin is a charmingly poetic conception, and the entire design unique in character and beauty.



VESTIBULE OF THE GRAND OPERA-HOUSE IN PARIS.



EFFECTS OF THE LATE STORM AT TORTOLA, WEST INDIES.

THE HURRICANE IN THE WEST INDIES.

We have already published full particulars of the terrible results of the great hurricane that burst over the island of St. Thomas, and almost engulfed Tortola; and this week we add to our previous reports two illustrations, from sketches by M. José Munoz, in the interior portion of the islands, where, the ground lying higher, the tempest seemed to rage with more irresistible fury. Trees were torn up by the roots and houses were completely lifted, their roofs and timbers being carried to a considerable distance. At Tortola nothing could avail to stop the force of the elements, and to the terrible destruction of the flood was added that of a fire which raged at Roadtown, the capital of the island; so that while the lower town was half swept away by the inundation, a part of the upper town was in flames. Our readers are aware that subscriptions are solicited for the sufferers, and that efforts are being made to render such aid as may be possible after so fearful a calamity.

THE GRAND OPERA, PARIS.

We have in former Numbers given descriptions of the new Grand Opera House at Paris, about the architectural and acoustic merits of which there has been considerable discussion. But, be the edifice tasteful or otherwise, convenient or the reverse, a scene similar to that depicted in our Engraving may be nightly witnessed in the vestibule. There the gallants robe their fair friends before leaving the house; carriages are in waiting; shawls, mantles, and other wraps are handed by attendant swains, and every means adopted to prevent the ladies suffering from the inclemency of the weather.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

Of opera there is little to say, except, what everyone knows, that our most ancient and celebrated operatic theatre, having been burned to the ground, is not likely, according to general rumour, be built up again. The statement, however, that on the site of the late theatre

a post-office would be erected has been formally and authoritatively contradicted. The company of Her Majesty's Theatre will perform next summer at Drury Lane; so that Mr. Mapleson's career as a manager will, fortunately, not be brought to an end by the disaster which has so abruptly terminated his autumn series of performances. He has rendered great services to musical art by the production of new and all but unknown operas; and has earned the gratitude of the general public by presenting, year after year, some singer of the highest talent, whom, but for him, we should, according to all appearances, never have heard in this country. And if Mr. Mapleson has deserved well of the public in respect to the excellence of his principal artists, he would seem to be the first and only operatic manager in London who has broken through the custom which requires that a chorus shall never be renovated, but that the same body of singers shall go on singing their monotonous strains for ever. Mr. Mapleson made a radical reform in this matter of the chorus, and used to bring over nearly all his



THE HURRICANE AT ST. THOMAS.

chorus-singers from Italy. Then he had an admirable orchestra and most efficient conductor. It was owing, in a great measure, to Signor Ardit's ability and untiring zeal that so many new works and old works revived were heard at her Majesty's Theatre; and this energy in the way of operatic production certainly constitutes one of the chief claims of the management upon public esteem.

The Crystal Palace concerts are—so far, at least, as the orchestral performances are concerned—quite unrivalled. The concert of Saturday last was not remarkable for any absolute novelty in the way of instrumental music—Reformation Symphonies and new books of "songs without words" cannot be produced every day; but a recent programme contained two admirable pieces, which have rarely been given at the Crystal Palace; and both were executed in a style worthy of the reputation belonging to Mr. Mann's now unrivalled orchestra. Schubert's symphony in C was one of the works in question; Mendelssohn's finale from "Loreley" the other. The history of Schubert's very beautiful symphony has been related more than once, and musical readers ought by this time to be quite familiar with the circumstances of its introduction into England. Presented by Mendelssohn to the orchestra of the Philharmonic Society, and received by that able body of executants with derision, it was thrown on one side, and for years afterwards was not heard of. The players who would not allow their eyes to be opened to the beauty of Schubert's work, have either become converted, or have been replaced by other players less pedantic and of better taste. At all events, Schubert's symphony was executed at the Crystal Palace by a body of musicians who evidently appreciated and enjoyed it.

Mr. Sullivan's operetta, "The Contrabandista," was produced on the opening night at St. George's Hall. An adventurous photographer, named Grigg, is travelling in some mountainous part of Spain, where he falls into the hands of brigands. The brigands have just lost their chief, and their law obliges them to accept as his successor the first stranger they meet. That stranger is Grigg; and the little photographer, capably played by Mr. Shaw, whose "make-up" reminds one somewhat of *Punch's* Mr. Briggs, is compelled not only to accept the command left vacant by the death of the captain, but also to marry the captain's widow. All this is strictly in accordance with "the law of the ladrones," which is constantly invoked in the course of the piece. Indeed, "The Law of the Ladrones" is the title of a farce which Mr. Burnand has taken for the groundwork of his libretto. The farce was his own—or at least partly his own, it having been written by him in collaboration with Mr. Montagu Williams—so that he had a right to do what he pleased with it; and he has certainly succeeded in making it into a very good opera-book, to which Mr. Sullivan has set admirable music. The score contains a couple of nice ballads for a brace of lovers held prisoners by the band, some spirited ballet-music, two or three excellent concerted pieces, and a comic air for Grigg—his grand *aria d'entrata*, in which he celebrates the comforts of an English home just as the brigands are about to dart upon him—which is simply a masterpiece. The lovers, who have nothing—nothing whatever—to do with the piece, are represented by Miss Arabella Smyth (soprano) and Mr. Edgar Hargreave (tenor). Miss Lucy Franklin, well known and highly esteemed as the principal contralto at the concerts of the National Choral Society, plays the part of the captain's widow, Mr. Aynsley Cooke that of the lieutenant of the band.

HOME HEATHENISM.—At the Stafford Assizes, last week, the chief witnesses in a case were two young girls, about fourteen years old, who are employed in canal boats. In cross-examination they both said they could neither read nor write; they had never been at school, church, or chapel; and they had never heard of the Bible. Mr. Justice Keating, in his summing up to the jury, thus remarked upon the subject:—"I cannot help noticing the most deplorable state of matters shown by the evidence of these girls. We call ourselves a Christian people, and pride ourselves upon being a civilised nation. These two girls have said that they could neither read nor write; that they had never in their lives been at school, church, or chapel; that they have never heard of the Bible; and, as the learned counsel has suggested, in all probability they have never heard of a Divine Being. We send our missionaries to the heathen, but what avails all this when we see such a state of things at home?"

THE OUTRAGE IN CLERKENWELL.—The Coroner's jury impanelled to inquire into the death of the persons who fell victims to the Fenian outrage at the House of Detention has returned a verdict of "wilful murder" against Timothy Desmond, Jeremiah Allen, and Ann Justice. At the inquest some striking evidence was given by the chief warder of the House of Detention. He said that about three-quarters of an hour before the explosion Allen was on the top of a neighbouring house, and that shortly before the occurrence attention was attracted to the presence at a window in Corporation-lane of a woman and several men. More important, as bearing upon the question raised by Lord Ranelagh on Thursday week, was his statement that the authorities of the prison had received an intimation not only that there was to be an attack on the prison, but that an attempt would be made to effect a breach in the wall. The visiting justices were not called together, and indeed none of those gentlemen thought proper to attend the inquiry. Inspector Thomson let out that there had been something very like a squabble between the Governor of the gaol and Sir Richard Mayne, the result being that while they were squabbling the prison was blown up. Sir Richard sent word to the Governor that the prison wall was to be blown up, and gave advice as to what should be done with the prisoners. The Governor replied, properly as it seems to us, that if Sir Richard would mind his own business, which was to watch over and protect the outside of the building, he would take care of the inside. The Governor's good advice was not attended to, and the prison wall was blown down. Four of the deceased were buried on Monday. The deepest interest was manifested by the people of the neighbourhood, whose conduct indicated what a profound impression this terrible crime has made on their minds. The relief committee have received about £3000, and it is intended, if sufficient means be supplied, to restore the sufferers to the same degree of comfort in which they were before they lost their homes—but who can restore the dead? The Prince of Wales has just sent a contribution of £50. Another death has resulted from the explosion, Humphrey Evans, an old man whose wife had previously perished, having died on Tuesday night. The other patients in the hospitals are doing well.

MEETINGS ON CLERKENWELL-GREEN PREVENTED.—Two meetings were announced to be held on Clerkenwell-green on Sunday—one at eleven o'clock, upon the invitation of Mr. Finlen, to "expose the treachery of the Fenians"; and the other at three, to be composed of, according to a handbill circulated, "the men of Ireland resident in London." They were invited to express their abhorrence of the Clerkenwell outrage. When these announcements became known to the police Mr. Superintendent Gernon, of the G division, laid an information before a magistrate in which he stated his belief that if those meetings or either of them were allowed to be held a breach of the peace would take place. He grounded his belief upon the fact that in the neighbourhood of Clerkenwell-green and in the entire district there existed a strong feeling of indignation against the persons who originated the funeral procession in honour of the Manchester murderers, which, as many of the inhabitants felt, had in some way contributed to bring about the crime of Friday week. Upon the information being sworn, orders were given by the Middlesex magistrates, acting under the advice of the Home Office, that the meetings should not be permitted to be held, and that any person persisting in addressing the crowd should be taken into custody. The promoters of the meetings having been duly warned by Mr. Superintendent Gernon, a force of about forty men of the A reserve, under Mr. Gernon and Inspectors Potter and Bryant, took up their positions two and two on the flagways of Clerkenwell-green in the morning about ten o'clock. Upwards of one hundred special constables, resident in the neighbourhood, remained at home in case their services should be required. But few persons responded to Mr. Finlen's invitation. Some dozen Irishmen were on the green at eleven o'clock, and left it in half an hour, when Mr. Finlen had not made his appearance, nor did he until twenty minutes past twelve. Mr. Superintendent Gernon, as soon as he saw Finlen, sent for him, and when he came told him that, as a breach of the peace was anticipated should the meeting be held, he had received instructions to prevent its taking place. Mr. Finlen asked the superintendent whether that order applied to that day only. Mr. Gernon said it did. Mr. Finlen then said that under the circumstances, and as he did not wish there should be any breach of the peace, he would abandon the idea of holding the meeting. He then went away, followed by a few persons. At three o'clock Mr. Thomas Campbell, the proposed chairman of the second meeting; Messrs. McDermid, Sweeney, and a few others made their appearance at the corner of Clerkenwell-cloze; but, having been apprised by Mr. Finlen of the intentions of the police, they, like him, gave up the idea of persevering in their design. The promoters of the meeting walked about the green for some time, and were subject to very uncomplimentary, if not threatening, remarks by English working men. The police officers state that the presence of the force was quite as necessary to protect Finlen and the rest from violence, should they persist in holding the meeting, as to carry out the instructions they had received. Happily, no breach of the peace occurred. Finlen was followed a considerable distance from Clerkenwell by a crowd of boys and girls, shouting, "Fenian! Fenian!" Inspector Potter sent some constables after Finlen to protect him.

THE VICTIM.

BY ALFRED TENNYSON, POET LAUREATE.

I.
A PLAGUE upon the people fell,
A famine after laid them low,
Then thorpe and byre arose in fire;
For on them brake the sudden foe;
So thick they died the people cried,
"The gods are moved against the land."
The priest in horror at his altar
To Thor and Odin lifted a hand.
"Help us from famine
And plague and strife!
What would you have of us?
Human life?
Were it our nearest,
Were it our dearest
(Answer, O answer!)
We give you his life."

II.
But still the foeman spoil'd and burn'd,
And cattle died, and deer in wood,
And bird in air, and fishes turn'd
And whiten'd all the rolling flood;
And dead men lay all over the way,
Or down in a furrow scathed with flame:
And ever and aye the Priesthood moan'd
Till at last it seemed that an answer came:
"The King is happy
In child and wife;
Take you his nearest,
Take you his dearest,
Give us a life."

III.
The Priest went out by heath and hill,
The King was hunting in the wild;
They found the mother sitting still;
She cast her arms about the child.
The child was only eight summers old,
His beauty still with his years increased.
His face was ruddy, his hair was gold,
He seemed a victim due to the Priest.
The Priest exulted,
And cried with joy,
"Here is his nearest,
Here is his dearest,
We take the boy."

IV.
The King returned from out the wild,
He bore but little game in hand;
The mother said, "They have taken the child,
To spill his blood and heal the land:
The land is sick, the people diseased,
And blight and famine on all the lea:
The holy Gods, they must be appeased,
So I pray you tell the truth to me.
They have taken our son,
They will have his life.
Is he your nearest?
Is he your dearest?
(Answer, O answer!)
Or I, the wife?"

V.
The King bent low, with hand on brow,
He stay'd his arms upon his knee;
"O wife, what use to answer now?
For now the Priest has judged for me."
The King was shaken with holy fear;
"The Gods," he said, "would have chosen well;
Yet both are near, and both are dear,
And which the dearest I cannot tell!"
But the Priest was happy,
His victim won.
"We have his nearest,
We have his dearest,
His only son!"

VI.
The rites prepared, the victim bared,
The knife uprising toward the blow,
To the altar-stone she sprang alone,
"Me, me, not him, my darling, no!"
He caught her away with a sudden cry;
Suddenly from him brake the wife,
And shrieking "I am his dearest, I—
I am his dearest!" rush'd on the knife,
And the Priest was happy.
"Oh, Father Odin,
We give you a life!
Which was his nearest?
Which was his dearest?
The Gods have answered:
We give them the wife!"
"Good Words" for January.

POLICE MANAGEMENT.

We publish the following letter, from amongst others we have received, as indicating the tone of public opinion on the subject of the management of the metropolitan police:—

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES.)

London, Dec. 22.
"A Constant Reader" of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES has to express thanks and gratitude for the very able and proper remarks on the "Fenian outrage," and agrees with the writer that the officials have not acquitted themselves creditably. On reading the article in the TIMES of the 14th inst. on the outrage the writer was of the same opinion. Had the head of the police gone himself, accompanied by a strong body of police, to the House of Detention, instead of sending merely an intimation of the expected attack, the melancholy disaster would not have taken place.
A change in the responsible department of the police force should be at once made; as now constituted, they are only fit for attending Court Leves and Drawingrooms, or the races at Epsom and Ascot. Where energetic action and foresight are required, they seem to be sadly at fault.
Smart men, such as the Adjutants of line regiments, of four to six years' standing, would very soon organise a police force that would speedily stamp Fenianism out here and in all the large towns.
To give an idea of Fenian rancour, a lady, who has four Irish female servants, stated that, when they heard of the horrid outrage, they exclaimed, "Serves them right; pity it was not the Houses of Lords and Commons!" The lady mentioned also that a brother of one of the fair Fenians was about joining the London police. In such times surely it cannot be the case.
There is a want of intelligence, sharpness, and steadiness in the police force, and it would be well to enrol into the service steady men from the Army who have served in the colonies, India, and at home. Well grounded in strict discipline, they would soon instil it into the police force.

MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR.—A mysterious conjunction of murder and suicide took place last Sunday morning in the Shadwell basin of the London Dock. The noise of men quarrelling was heard on the drawbridge by the police, but, a dense fog prevailing, little could be seen beyond the figures of several men. On going to the spot the police found a passer-by charging two men with throwing a third into the water, and allowing him to drown while they looked coolly on at his dying struggles. The necessary apparatus was procured and the basin was dragged. In a few minutes the dead body of a young woman was brought to the surface. It had evidently not been long there; but the dragging was resumed, and soon after the body of a man dead, but warm, was found, and there were marks of violence on the body. The woman was Elizabeth Moore, wife of a sailor at sea, who had been leading a profligate life, and who had threatened to commit suicide. The other body was that of Francis Brown, aged twenty-one, who had been in the company of two Irish labourers, named Duggan and Donovan, and was last seen alive with them on the drawbridge of the basin. The two latter were apprehended and examined, on Monday, at the Thames Police Court, on the charge of having wilfully murdered Brown. They were remanded.

THE RECENT TAILORS' STRIKE.

SOME important and significant deductions, which cannot fail to be interesting at the present time, may be made from the perusal of the balance-sheet of the fund raised during the recent tailors' strike, which was read at the annual meeting of the London Operative Tailors' Association, held at the Cambridge Hall, Newman-street, last week. It showed that the total money received for the fund from April to Oct. 31, including a balance of £81 13s. 3d. in the hands of the treasurer at the beginning of the strike, amounted to £17,000 8s. 14d. Of this sum, £2884 had been received from the levies of the Amalgamated Society of Tailors, £2480 from the levies of the London tailors in work during the movement; £1556 from London trades societies, shops, and jobs; £2472 from provincial trades and jobs, £1033 from Scotland, and £154 from Ireland; the remaining sum being made up of sundry small subscriptions. Of the above amount received, £15,681 had been paid to the men on strike; while the remainder, with the exception of £8 now in hand and £150 advanced to the defence fund, had been expended in delegations, public meetings, committees, printing, advertising, and the other necessary incidents connected with a protracted strike. The first consideration which suggests itself on considering this statement is that, during the agitation, the operatives egregiously misrepresented the strength of their position and the extent of their resources. We noticed every large public meeting held by the men during the strike; we had almost daily communication with the committee; and we can say that it was always emphatically asserted that those who had struck were receiving a "scale" of £1 per head per week. Now, there were about 2500 unemployed during the six months elapsing between April and October—let us say 2000, though our argument may not admit of contradiction or dispute. If these 2000 men received £1 per head per week, as alleged, they would have exhausted the sum of £15,681, which the balance-sheet states was distributed among them in less than two months. Taking it that 2000 were on strike for six months, and that they all received the same scale, they must have been paid, not at the rate of £1, but at the rate of little over 6s. per head per week. From the balance-sheet we also learn that £1619, less £150, had been expended in delegations, public meetings, committees, printing, and advertising—that is to say, nearly £500 per week must have been expended for these purposes. Now, the legitimate expenses of the committees must have been very little; for they always sat in a small public-house in an insignificant street. The number of public meetings were, considering the importance of the agitation, very few; so that the greater part of a sum of £1469 was devoted to defraying the expenses of delegations—that is to say, liabilities to the extent of £8 per day were incurred by the representatives of the trade who were deputed to solicit the assistance of the provincial trades. The deduction which may be fairly drawn from the consideration of these facts goes to ratify the opinion of a quarterly contemporary, lately expressed, that the executives of trades unions are not particularly frugal of the funds intrusted to them when their personal interests and convenience are concerned. At the meeting of the London association to which we have referred it was stated that the masters had not made any reduction in the wages of the men who had returned to work, and that with few exceptions they had not enforced their resolution to employ only such operatives as would be employed through the registry-office. Though these facts were adduced as proofs of the strength of the Operative Tailors' Association, they constitute another proof that the masters, of whose forbearance through the progress of the strike we had frequently to speak in terms of unqualified praise, are anxious to concede every legitimate demand made by those whom they employ. To show how reckless the executive of the operatives' society was of the money subscribed by their brethren to obtain a factitious éclat and to intensify the vexation of the strife, we may state that £1000 was expended in defending the president and others tried at the Old Bailey a few months ago for conspiring against the masters. It appears there is at present a lock-out among the tailors in Durham, Hyde, and Newcastle-on-Tyne, and the council of the Amalgamated Society, of which, we may observe, the London association seems to be somewhat distrustful, have appealed to the trade to support those who are now unemployed. This is only one of the disastrous results which have proceeded from the London strike, the lamentable effects of which it will take some years to efface completely.—Times.

THE FERNDALE EXPLOSION.—An accident which results in the death of 177 persons is too awful a matter to be dismissed with a short notice and then buried out of sight in the files of the public journals. It ought to teach valuable lessons and serve as a warning for all future time. No one, therefore, will regret that the inquest which has been held on the sufferers by the Ferndale Colliery explosion has lasted eleven days, and been the means of eliciting a most exhaustive body of evidence on the subject. The verdict given by the jury contains some useful recommendations, which no doubt will receive due attention; but the moral taught by the event is very simple. Instead of being called an accident, the explosion should be regarded as a natural result of arrangements that looked as if they had been devised for the blowing up of the labourers. Accumulations of gas in the stalls and workings or foul air "approaching an explosive condition," and an absence of proper ventilating apparatus formed the material in readiness; while the agent which completed the work of destruction was the carelessness of the miners themselves. Some of the men were in the habit of carrying naked lights; and on the occasion of the late accident they seem to have done so in that portion of the workings where gas was likely to be found. Such is generally the case. The neglect of managers and agents does one part of the mischief, and the over-confidence of the miners does the rest. It may be added that the latter are usually the most indifferent at the precise time and place where they ought to be most on the alert. The manager of Ferndale Colliery was himself one of the victims, and we are therefore without his explanation; but it was stated in evidence that, when asked to enforce the regulations against tampering with the locked safety lamps, he excused himself on the ground that he did not know what to do with the men, "they were such a rough lot." That is probably true enough; but it only points out one of several remedial measures which are required. These are, first, a systematic, minute, and stringent official inspection of the mine and everything about it, so that long accumulations of gas may be rendered impossible, and foul air be diluted by proper ventilation; secondly, that still more effectual, because more constant, form of inspection which is carried out by the personal superintendence of the managers, agents, and foremen; and, thirdly, the development of intelligence and watchfulness among the men themselves. If the miners were educated to a proper sense of their own danger and to a salutary horror of indifference, any kind of inspection would be unnecessary. But as the time is probably long distant when we shall see every working collier a benevolent spy on his neighbours' actions, and fairly emancipated from that familiarity with danger which breeds contempt, supervision becomes an urgent necessity.—Telegraph.

POST-OFFICE REGULATIONS.—On Jan. 1 next the combined rate of British and United States postage on letters posted in the United Kingdom, addressed to any part of the United States, and whether conveyed by packet or by private ship, will be reduced to 6d. per ½ oz., or fraction thereof, provided such postage be prepaid. Unpaid or insufficiently paid letters will be liable, on their delivery in the United States, to an additional charge. Upon registered letters a registration fee of 4d. will be chargeable; and this fee, together with the postage, must be prepaid. A corresponding reduction will be made on the same day in the postage of letters forwarded through the United States to the following colonies and other places—viz., Canada (including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island), British Columbia, Vancouver Island, Sandwich Islands, Havannah, Mexico, Panama, and Colon. Letters for any of the British colonies here specified will be chargeable with a reduced rate of 7d. per ½ oz., or fraction thereof. The same rate of 7d. per ½ oz. will also be chargeable on letters for Bermuda, addressed "via New York." The postage of letters addressed to British Honduras (which are not forwarded, as a rule, by way of New York and New Orleans) will also be reduced, and will become 1s. 1d. per ½ oz., or fraction thereof. Letters for any of the foreign places named above will be chargeable with a reduced rate of 1s. per ½ oz., or fraction thereof. Upon all letters for such foreign places, as well as upon those for British Columbia and Vancouver Island, the postage must be paid in advance. On Jan. 1 next, and thenceforward, book-packets, as also patterns or samples of merchandise, may be forwarded in the mails sent by mail-packets, via New York, to Canada and the rest of British North America, British Columbia, Vancouver Island, Sandwich Islands, Havannah, Mexico, Panama, and Colon. The postage chargeable on all such book-packets and patterns will be 4d. per ½ lb., or fraction thereof, which postage must be paid in advance and by means of postage-stamps. The British mail-packets of the Cunard line will, after Jan. 1 next, proceed invariably to New York direct, instead of alternately to New York direct and to Boston, by way of Halifax. In addition to this line of packets, steam-vessels belonging to the Liverpool, New York, and Philadelphia Steam-ship Company will, from the same date, convey mails weekly from Queenstown to New York; and steam-vessels belonging to the North German Lloyd of Bremen will convey mails, weekly, from Southampton to New York, under contracts with the Postmaster-General. The following will be the arrangements for the dispatch of mails to the United States after the end of this year:—Departure from London on Tuesday, by day mail, from Southampton, Tuesday, two p.m., by the North German Lloyd line of packets; departure from London on Wednesday, by night mail, from Queenstown, Thursday, 3.30 p.m., by the Liverpool, New York, and Philadelphia Steam-ship Company line of packets; departure from London on Thursday, by night mail, from Moville (Londonderry), Friday, 5.30 p.m., by the Montreal Ocean Steam-ship Company line of packets; departure from London on Saturday, by night mail, from Queenstown, Sunday, 3.30 p.m., by the Cunard Company's line of packets. All letters, &c., addressed to the United States will be forwarded in the first mail dispatched after such letters, &c., are posted, unless specially directed to be otherwise sent. Letters, &c., marked to be forwarded by any particular vessel will be so forwarded. The mails for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Bermuda, and Newfoundland, which have hitherto been conveyed to Halifax by the Cunard packet proceeding to Boston, will henceforth be conveyed from Queenstown to Halifax by a separate packet, sailing on every alternate Sunday, as at present.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE Clerkenwell conspiracy will, it is to be hoped, serve at least one good purpose beyond that of exposing the folly, mischief, and cruelty of Fenianism. It has directed public and authoritative attention to the inexpediency of confiding the entire command of the police to a single irresponsible chief. It is scarcely important whether the personage in whom such command is vested be Sir Richard Mayne or any other—so long as the results be disastrous. Nay, more. If there be even the risk of disaster without the chance of fair open investigation and of removal of a public officer in case of proved negligence or incompetence, the system stands condemned by this very fact. Again and again, for long past, have we pointed out the anomaly of the position of our Metropolitan Commissioner of Police. His career, from the fearful calamity attendant upon the lying-in-state of the Duke of Wellington in 1852, has been marked by a succession of failures and disgraces. Our very pen might try to recall the garrote panics, the constant convictions of perjured policemen, the failure of inquiries into murders, the persecutions of costermongers, the neglect of renewing public lists of cab-fares especially imposed on the police commissioners at their own instigation in accordance with new metropolitan rules, the issuing of rules for the governance of cabdrivers too absurd and oppressive for obedience or enforcement; the infliction of puritanical rules upon licensed victuallers; the espionage thereby entailed on the police, to the neglect of more imperative duties; the all but open bribery by which the Haymarket orgies are suffered to become a national scandal; the shameful defeat of Hyde Park, due solely to bad generalship; the withdrawal of official proclamations; the enforced suspension of important clauses in a public statute as soon as passed; and, lastly, the Clerkenwell catastrophe, after acknowledged warning of time, place, even manner of its accomplishment. On this last subject we are glad to find that Lord Ranelagh has said something to say, and has said it to a purpose. We acknowledge to a respect for Lord Ranelagh—all the greater that he is not an orator. Your orator can harangue always, on any subject or on any side, and is none the better worth the hearing on that account. At a meeting of Middlesex magistrates Lord Ranelagh declared that the intended attack on the gaol at Clerkenwell was well known, not only in Ireland, in Paris, but in London, long before it took place. He (Lord Ranelagh) wished to know "how it was that the Chief Commissioner of Police had not taken more active measures in preventing the attack from the outside, the governor of the gaol having previously undertaken to secure all on the inside." There is and was no answer to this question. The only attempted reply, or evasion, was that suggested by Sir Alexander Spearman (a gentleman who, in addition to a baronetcy and a justiceship, has, we believe, the honour of controlling a lunatic asylum), who "rose to order," and wished to know if the noble Lord was "going to make an attack on Sir R. Mayne?"—if so, Sir Richard was not present, and could not defend himself. Now this is precisely the matter of which we complain. Sir Richard Mayne never is present to defend himself. He is allowed to be above all defence or justification. A Prime Minister may be forced to resign, a railway pointsman may be imprisoned for a blunder or a mishap—each may be put upon his defence; but Sir Richard owns no tribunal beyond the nominal one of the Home Office, of which he has the ear. A Home Secretary is changed with an administration—Sir Richard remains. The governor of the gaol is called before the court of magistrates, proves that he did his duty fully in protecting the inside of the walls, and is dismissed with commendation. Sir Richard escapes censure, because he does not deign to appear to vindicate himself. It is pleasant to us to observe that the leading Conservative journal has at length adopted our views upon this important subject of our police administration, and is now urging, as a point worthy of consideration, "whether it would not be desirable to constitute the police a department separate from the Home Office, and presided over by a Minister who should exercise a general supervision over the police force of the entire kingdom." This suggestion will surely be no novelty to our readers.

One other question suggests itself in reference to this Fenian matter. We stand in presence of an acknowledged, secret, extensive, and organised conspiracy against the unity of the kingdom. Why tamper with it by affecting to regard it as otherwise than treason? We have before us a batch of newspapers obviously written and published to effect the separation of a British dominion from the Crown by means of civil war and foreign invasion at the first convenient opportunity. There are certain post-mortem mutilations attached to convictions for high treason once considered deterrent, now simply revolting. To evade the danger of national repugnance to their execution, we now, instead of abolishing them, soften the name of the crime to that of treason-felony and mitigate its punishment. Why not call high treason by its proper name, and punish it with justice without the aggravation of obsolete mediæval barbarities?

A publican has been fined for supplying a small quantity of gin during the prohibited hours on a Sunday, for the use of a woman who, having been seized with sudden and severe illness, had received from her medical attendant a certificate that the spirit was immediately required as a medical agent. It is true that the fine was small, only 1s., but the costs were 16s.; and the injury to the publican, by being put upon his defence and convicted, may count for something. The readers of "Oliver Twist" may remember how the wretched sneak Noah Claypole earns a subsistence by confederacy with his wife, who falls into fits at public-house doors on Sunday mornings, and is supplied with brandy by benevolent victuallers. Then Noah informs, and obtains his livelihood out of the half-fines allowed. The common informer is now abolished. The policeman performs the office. The limitations—so far as the absolute prohibition of spirits, even when medically prescribed as a necessary—affect only the poor, for middle-class folk are seldom without a supply of strong waters to meet an emergency.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

BUSINESS in the Stock Exchange, in consequence of the Christmas holidays, has been of a very limited character. For all National Securities the market has ruled heavy, and there has been a tendency towards increased depression; whilst prices have ruled in favour of purchasers. Consols, for Delivery, have been done at 99½; Ditto, for the Account, 99½; Reduced and New Three

per Centa, 99½; and Exchange Bills, 25s. to 29s. prem. Bank Stock has marked 235 to 241.

In Foreign Stocks the transactions have been neither numerous nor extensive. Italian has declined ½; Chilean, ½; Brazilian, 1; Russian, ½; Egyptian, 1; Mexican, ½; and United States Bonds, 4 per cent. The up-and-down movements in prices have been in favour of Quota bonds, which has improved 2½, and Spanish, which is ½ per cent higher. The scrip of the new Portuguese Loan has been steady at 1½ prem. Brazilian, 1885, 75 to 76; Chilean, 1867, 88 to 89; Danubian, 63 to 65; Egyptian, 1884, 84 to 86; Ditto Deben-tures, 92½ to 94½; Guatemala, 60 to 62; Italian, 1865, 71 to 72; Mexican, 81 to 83; Peru, 1865, 72½ to 73½; Portuguese, 1863, 86 to 88; Russian, 1882, 89 to 89½; Spanish, 1885, 89 to 90; Ditto Five per Centa, 33½ to 34½; Turkish, 1864, 81 to 83; Ditto Five per Centa, 33½ to 34½; United Four per Centa, 83 to 84; Italian, 1861, 44 to 45; United States 5-20 Bonds, 72½ to 73½; Spanish, 49 to 50; Ditto, 1885, 70½ to 71½; Massachusetts, 86 to 88; Virginia, 48 to 49; and New York City, 30 to 32.

Colonial Government Securities have been neglected—Canada Six per Centa, 103½; Ditto Five per Centa, 90; Cape Five per Centa, 100½; Ceylon Six per Centa, 1882 and 1884, 110½; New South Wales, 98½; Ditto Six per Centa, 1882, 98½; New Zealand Five per Centa, 104½; and Victoria Six per Centa, 1891, 113.

In Joint-stock Bank Shares very few sales have taken place. Agri. A. 7½; Australian, 6½; Bank of Otago, 5½; Imperial Ottoman, 9½; London Chartered of Australia, 43½ ex div.; London Joint-Stock, 35; Ditto, New, 23; London and Westminster, 65½; Midland, 91; New South Wales, 40; Union of Australia, 51½; and Union of London, 36.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

MARK-LANE.—The arrivals of English grain during the week have been moderate, and the bulk of the supply has come to hand in middling condition. Owing to the heavy rain, the week has been much neglected. Full average supplies of foreign wheat have been on sale, the transactions in which have been of a retail character, at about stationary currencies. On the whole, the floating cargo trade has ruled quiet. There has been a fair show of barley on the stands. The few fine malting parcels on offer have realised very full quotations; grinding and distilling sorts, however, have in some instances been offered on lower terms. Malt has been dull, but not cheaper. Oats, in consequence of large arrivals, have given way ½d. per qr. Beans as well as peas have ruled heavy. There has been but little inquiry for flour. The following are the quotations for English grain:—Wheat, 60s. to 74s.; barley, 32s. to 44s.; malt, 55s. to 74s.; oats, 24s. to 35s.; rye, 46s.; beans, 30s. to 40s.; peas, 48s. to 49s. per quarter; and flour, 50s. to 64s. per 280 lb. EXCHANGE.—The following are the quotations for foreign exchange:—AVERAGES OF GRAIN.—Wheat, 60s. 9d.; barley, 41s. 2d.; and oats, 24s. 4d. per qr.

SEEDS.—Best qualities of new red clover seed have sold at slightly enhanced quotations; in other descriptions very little has been doing. Canary and other seeds have been difficult to sell.

CATTLE.—Only moderate supplies of beasts have been on sale, principally the refuse of last week's markets. The beef trade has, on the whole, been quiet, at prices varying from 3s. 4d. to 5s. per 8 lb. Sheep, of which the show has been limited, have been in slight demand at from 3s. 4d. to 4s. 6d. per 14 lb. Calves have moved off slowly, at from 4s. 4d. to 5s. 4d. per 11 lb. For pork the demand has been inactive. Prices have ranged from 3s. 4d. to 4s. 2d. per 8 lb., to sink the offer.

NEWCASTLE AND LEADENHALL.—These markets have been heavily supplied with meat. The trade has ruled steady. Beef, from 3s. to 4s. 6d.; mutton, 3s. to 4s. 6d.; veal, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; and pork, 3s. to 4s. 2d. per 8 lb., for the carcasses.

HOPS.—Notwithstanding that holders are willing to accept lower terms, the demand for all kinds of hops has been without improvement, at about late rates. Prices have ranged from 43 lbs. to £10 10s. per cwt.

WOOL.—Next to nothing has been doing in any description of wool, either for home use or for export, at barely stationary prices.

POTATOES.—The supplies are moderate. Most descriptions have been firmly held, at from 90s. to 170s. per ton for English qualities.

COALS.—Newcastle, 14s.; Sunderland, 16s. 3d. to 20s.; Harlepool and West Hartlepool, 15s. to 18s. 9d. per ton.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, DEC. 26.

BANKRUPTS.—G. FAGNANI, Lombard-street, merchant.—G. TAYLOR, Isle of Wight, limeburner.—E. MATSELL, Burnham Westgate, brewer.—W. H. WHEELER, Borough, commission agent.—F. HIGGINS, jun., Gray's-inn-road, manager to a company.—J. W. CHURCHILL, Commercial-road East, transparent compass, and clock-maker.—H. E. BRAY, Manchester-square, merchant.—T. LANE, Calcuttina-road, green-grocer.—G. JUDD, jun., Westminster Bridge-road, Italian warehouseman.—B. HAIGH, Cubitt's Town, tinplate-maker.—E. POWIS, Bedford-row, hotel keeper.—T. RICHARDS, Old Bedford, north, bricklayer.—C. E. COOK, Cockbush, general merchant.—P. DYKLE, St. John's-wood.—D. S. ANTONIO, Grosvenor Hotel, commission merchant.—J. H. BRIDGES, Ipswich, director of a brewing company.—W. J. JOB, New North-road, beerhouse-keeper.—C. W. CARPENTER, Islington, commission agent.—T. FRENCH, Marylebone, bootmaker.—B. BUSHNELL, Landport, coachbuilder.—E. WILSON, Old Kent-road, South Norwood, mill dealer.—W. PIKE, Pimlico, carpenter.—H. LEES, Newington Causeway, fruit-trader.—J. DAGLEY, New Wandsworth, bootmaker.—W. WILKINSON, Euston-road, sharebroker.—L. MASON, Lambeth, farrier.—W. SCOTT, Bournemouth, butcher.—C. HANSMANN, Holborn, baker.—E. DEANA, Fenchurch, Manchester-square, merchant.—W. G. GREEN, Upper Norwood, lodging-house keeper.—J. HAWS, Cheselde, shipbuilder.—T. G. RIDGEN, Whitelake, shipowner.—T. RIGBY, Wandsworth, blacksmith.—K. HAMPTON, Dalston, commission agent.—H. CHINN, sen., King's Heath, farmer.—G. E. SPANER, Nottingham, surgeon.—W. J. JOYCE, Bristol.—J. HENLY, Calne, wine merchant's assistant.—L. KENNY, Bristol, cattle-dealer.—H. T. ROWLEY, Bristol, wine merchant.—W. H. GILLET, Bristol, shipping merchant.—R. HOARE, Plymouth, miller merchant.—J. VINCENT, Sherborne, innkeeper.—J. and W. ANDREW, Plymouth, cattle-dealers.—J. KEY, Mitchell, innkeeper.—G. FARRIS, Grosvenor Hotel, commission merchant.—M. BRETHERTON, Streatham, East Jarrow, grocer.—T. PICKERING, Birmingham, tailor.—E. JONES, Aston-juxta-Birmingham, whitesmith.—J. HIGGINS, Aston-juxta-Birmingham, butcher.—J. GRANT, Hove, grocer.—J. SYKES, Reading.—J. MILES, New Swindon, beerhouse-keeper.—C. RALPH, Ipswich, innkeeper.—G. MATTHEWS, Ipswich, porter.—E. GIBSON, Pontypool, beerhouse-keeper.—A. JONES, Yately, baker.—H. D. BROOKS, Gloucester, coal merchant.—K. MONKHOUSE, Liverpool, butcher.—J. GRANT, Hove, grocer.—J. SYKES, Reading.—J. MILES, New Swindon, beerhouse-keeper.—C. RALPH, Ipswich, innkeeper.—G. MATTHEWS, Ipswich, porter.—E. GIBSON, Pontypool, beerhouse-keeper.—A. JONES, Yately, baker.—H. D. BROOKS, Gloucester, coal merchant.—K. MONKHOUSE, Liverpool, butcher.—J. GRANT, Hove, grocer.—J. SYKES, Reading.—J. MILES, New Swindon, beerhouse-keeper.—C. RALPH, Ipswich, innkeeper.—G. MATTHEWS, Ipswich, porter.—E. GIBSON, Pontypool, beerhouse-keeper.—A. JONES, Yately, baker.—H. D. BROOKS, Gloucester, coal merchant.—K. MONKHOUSE, Liverpool, butcher.—J. GRANT, Hove, grocer.—J. SYKES, Reading.—J. 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